



Mr. Musgrove comes to town

Hancock's elite came to meet and greet Gov. Ronnie Musgrove last week.

Community, Page 1B



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The Sea Coast Echo

Since 1892

VOL. 110, NO. 6 BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

THREE SECTIONS, 24 PAGES 50 CENTS

Sunday
Jan. 21, 2001

Coast Chorale to sing 'Magnificat'

The Coast Chorale will perform John Rutter's *Magnificat* today, Sunday, Jan. 21, at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Pass Christian, beginning at 3 p.m. The Chorale, now in its eighth season, is under the direction of Joy Mehrten. The performance is open to everyone.

Standard-Dedeaux water approved

The Board of Directors of Standard-Dedeaux Water Association has been approved for funding by Rural Utilities Service for installation of a central water system in the Standard-Dedeaux rural areas. The group will accept the \$25 meter deposits from members.

To date, 700 meters have been assigned. Once 835 meters have been assigned, there will be no more \$25 deposits. For questions or comments, direct questions to: Robert Seal, 255-2884; Tony Necaise, 255-7799; Gaston L. Ory Jr., 255-2677; John L. Cuevas, 255-7274; or Harrison P. Ladner, 255-4103.

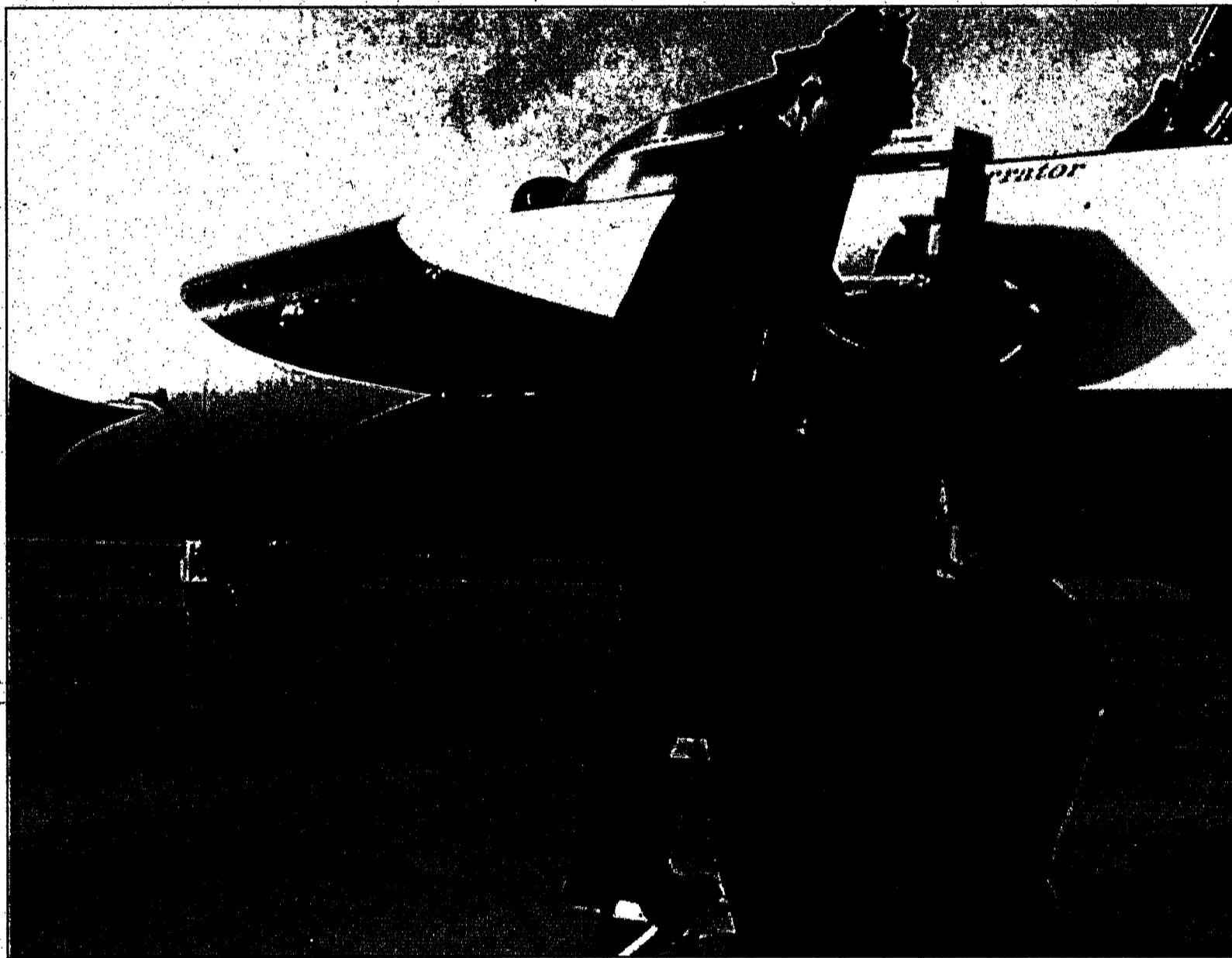
WHAT'S INSIDE
Editorial.....Page 4A
Sports.....Pages 6-7A
ObituariesPage 8A
ClassifiedPages 8-10B

TIDES		
DAY	HIGH	LOW
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Wed. 11:52 p.	10:57 a.	9:52 a.
Thurs. —	11:32 a.	10:17 a.
Fri. 12:27 a.	12:01 p.	10:52 a.
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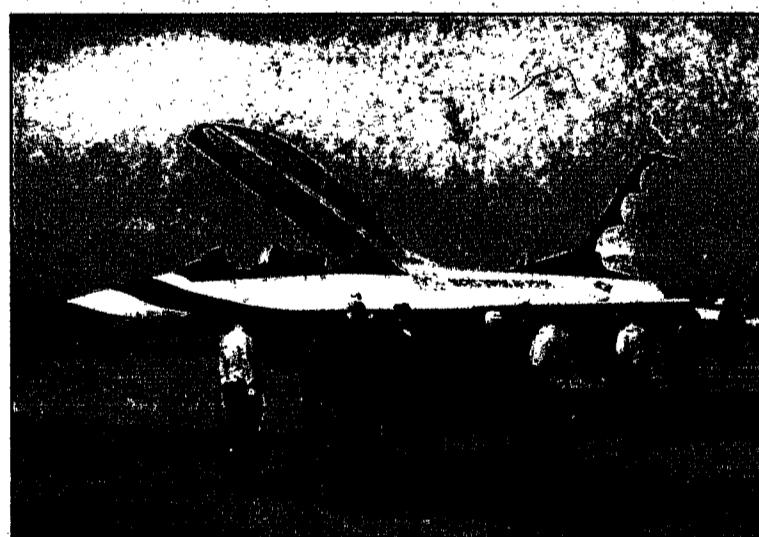
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Echo staff photos by Bennie Shallbetter
Major Glen Lawson — one of the U.S. Air Force's famed Thunderbirds demonstration squad pilots — steps down from his plane moments after landing at Stennis International Airport last week. The Thunderbirds are scheduled to take part in the Sky-Fest airshow.



Promoters say 'Sky-Fest' could have \$10M impact on local economy

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

Fireworks won't be the only thing in the sky this Labor Day Weekend. This year the sky will be filled with three days of exciting performances by the United States Air Force 3600th Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, as well as many

civilian air performers, at Sky Fest 2001, which will be held at Stennis International Airport in Kiln.

The show was announced in a big way on Thursday, when two members of the Thunderbirds, Major Glen Lawson and Sgt. Wheeler, flew into Stennis from Chicago in one of the team's F-16's, and gave spectators a short demonstration of their skill.

Also on hand at Thursday's briefing, were owner Robert Hardin and Executive Director Richard L. Dillon, of Sky Parade Inc., who are the show's produc-

SKY FEST-PAGE 3A

County crews cleaning up rotting white-bellied mullets

BY ED LEPOMA
Staff Writer

Hancock County road crews and jail trustees were working from skiffs and off banks this week scooping up hundreds of tons of white-bellied mullets rotting in canals along Jourdan River Shores.

The large fish kill occurred shortly after freezing temperatures and lower-than-normal tides caused oxygen levels in the shallow canals to drop beyond the norm. The mullets were unable to get out in time, and went belly-up.

The kill was reported Jan. 7 to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Wildlife and Fisheries and the state Department of Marine Resources. The agencies came out to investigate, but none accepted responsibility for cleaning up the rotting fish.

After several residents complained, Hancock County Chancery Clerk and county Administrator Tim Kellar declared a state of emergency.

The declaration allows the county to use its road crews and jail trustees to clean up the mess, and to be reimbursed later. Kellar said state Sen. Scottie Cuevas has received assurances from MDEQ it will fund the cost of the cleanup, which ranges from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

The Echo visited the Jourdan River Shores on Thursday, and the smell of rotting fish hovered over the area.

Two road department employees were in a skiff, scooping up hundreds of mullets at the time and placing them in black plastic bags. Further down the road, oth-



Under an emergency declaration, Hancock County road crews and jail trustees were dispatched this week to Jourdan River Shores off state Hwy. 603 to scoop up tons of dead white mullets that have been rotting in canals for more than a week.

Echo staff photo by Ed Lepoma

FISH-PAGE 2A

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Major changes due in Waveland

Alderman approve measures to seek grant for library renovation

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

The City of Waveland is getting serious in its efforts to lend new life to Coleman Ave.

Aldermen voted Wednesday night to approve a motion to authorize an application for the Library Grant 2001 to help fund a proposed \$500,000 renovation of the county's Coleman Ave. branch. Hancock County Library Director Prima Plauche presented an extensive renovation plan at Tuesday's workshop and asked the board to move quickly to insure that a March 2001 library grant application deadline be met.

The renovation would bring the library to standard both with ADA compliance and to the minimum standard size, 5,000 sq. ft., for a community library.

"There is now the opportunity to make the Waveland Library one of the anchors of the revitalization (of Coleman Ave.) and to provide enough space at the library to offer all

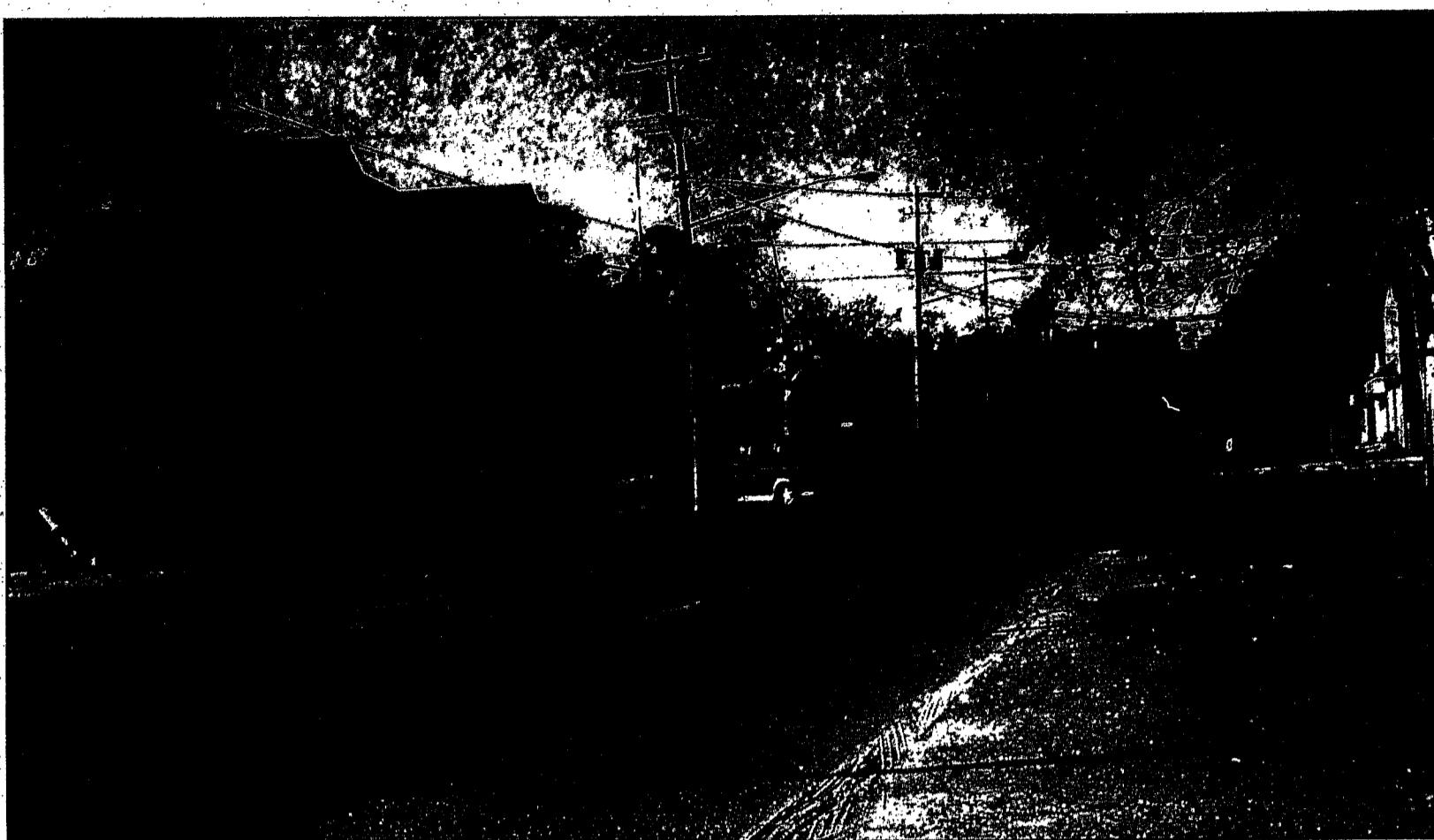
the services of a community library, including computerized adult education programs, one-on-one literacy, browsing space, children's area and more," said Plauche.

Plauche also said that the library system has plans to decentralize the county's award winning adult literacy program, now located exclusively at the Coleman Ave. branch.

"We would not be moving the literacy program from Waveland, but merely providing other locations for classes to be held, for the convenience of those attending," Plauche said on Thursday.

The plans call for the addition of a meeting room; 1,000 sq. ft. of library space; ADA compliant restrooms; new offices; a kitchen; and a storage area as well as a central heat and air system; extensive electrical work; and a new pitched roof.

The branch already sits on property large enough to accommodate the proposed expansion, so no additional land would be purchased. The expansion would not interfere with any of the surrounding features, including the park and civic center, Plauche said. If all goes as planned, the project would begin early next year and take about three years to complete.



Coleman Ave. — the main drag in the city of Waveland — is about to get a major facelift with grant-funded renovations and development projects.

Coleman Ave. Coalition trying to renew city

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

Coleman Ave. in Waveland may soon get a whole new look. Business owners on the street have revived the Coleman Avenue Coalition with monthly meetings aimed at finding ways to renew interest in the downtown area.

Members voted Thursday to approve three spring projects: A landscaping project at the beach end of Coleman Ave., centering around a sign announcing the street; a trash can painting contest for artists and amateurs; and a spring clean-up. Members also voted to table the idea of a Bob Marley festival proposed by

Executive Director of Hancock County Tourism and Development Beth Carriere at the last meeting.

State board member for the Mississippi Main Street Project Margaret Miller spoke to the group about the Main Street project, of which Waveland is a member city. Miller pointed out the importance of getting the whole city involved in projects.

"The Main Street program is a way to get organized, to take plans from conversation into action, with the help of experts

... the price to renovate is high

but the cost of inaction is higher," said Miller.

She said the biggest challenge Coleman Ave. faces is letting people know that they are there.

"I have been through here many times but had never come down here because I didn't know it existed ... now that I have I'm pleasantly surprised," said Miller.

"The Main Street Program is dedicated to renewing an interest in downtown areas as a center of community activities.

Hancock Middle School principal resigns post

BY GEOFF BELCHER
News Editor

Hancock Middle School Principal Darnell Cuevas officially stepped down Thursday night at the Hancock County School Board recess meeting at Kiln, in effect citing irreconcilable differences between she and Superintendent of Education Mike Ladner.

"It was something that I never thought I would have to do," Cuevas said Friday.

Cuevas, an educator in the Hancock district for the past 20 years, was named acting principal at the junior high school and then principal at the new middle school when it opened at the beginning of the last school year. In February 2000, she was named the Mississippi Association of Middle Level Educators Middle School Principal of the Year.

"Last January," she said, "we had a new administrator (Ladner) that came into our district. During that time, things began to change."

Despite overseeing a dramatic rise in test scores at the junior high level, Cuevas said Hancock Middle School scores rose from 46th and 47th in the

state to 10th and 16th, placing fourth and sixth, respectively, on state math scores — she felt there was resistance at the district central office in supporting some of her decisions.

Cuevas filed a grievance against Ladner in the second month of his term as superintendent, but said Friday she thought most of their differences had been worked out in mediation.

However, she said, "My husband learned that ... there was a promise made that I would be removed as principal."

Ladner said Friday that not only had no such promise been made, he had already planned to renew her contract for the next school year.

"In fact, I was very surprised that she tendered her resignation ... (District Personnel Director David) Kopf and I had anticipated working with her in the next school year and getting some things done at the middle school."

"The bottom line is, I had no problem with Mrs. Cuevas none ... She did what she did on her own volition. ... I wish her the best of luck in whatever she does."

Bay emergency funds to bolster police in Ward 3

BY GEOFF BELCHER
News Editor

Bay St. Louis Eddie Favre announced Friday that funds from the city's emergency surplus account would be diverted to the Bay St. Louis Police Department in order to improve security in the third ward.

"While rebuilding the city's emergency surplus account is important, it is not as important as citizen security," Favre said in a press release issued Friday by Bay Police Chief Frank McNeil. "I said we would do what it will take to give these citizens the security they need using all legal means at our disposal."

The move was in response to complaints made by Ward 3 Councilwoman Connie Lampley, who told fellow council members in a meeting Tuesday that "drugs, dice, picnics and parties" at the corner of Sycamore and St. Francis streets, along with other activities in the area were a source of great concern and fear to her constituents.

"People are peddling drugs: Crack cocaine and marijuana,"

Lampley said, adding that the offenders are not all from the third ward.

She said Ward 3 residents had presented her with a petition urging the council to take action to stop the problem.

Favre did not specify the amount of funding that would be funneled to step up police protection in the area, but Bay P.D. Assistant Police Chief David Stepro said Friday that "Whatever is necessary will be done."

Residents in other districts of the city should not be concerned that patrols in their areas will be reduced because of problems in another area.

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Patrols throughout the city will remain at their present level."

Favre and McNeil both urged community cooperation, and said property owners in Ward 3 would be contacted "to request their support in pressing charges for trespass and other violations."

For more information on community support and the Neighborhood Watch program, call McNeil at 467-9221.

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OPINION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2001

pg 4A



Ponderings

by James R. "Randy" Ponder
Editor and Publisher

"Service Above Self" is more than just a motto

What is Rotary?

No, no, no, it's not just a bunch of wealthy, older men who drive their fancy cars up to the yacht club once a week for a fine lunch and hang around for a few drinks while smoking big cigars.

Rotary was founded in 1905 by Paul Harris and three friends in Chicago. It has grown into an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Rotarians volunteer their efforts to improve the quality of life in their own communities and beyond. Rotary is non-political, non-religious, and open to all cultures, races and creeds.

First admitted in 1987, women are the fastest-growing segment of Rotary's membership.

There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians and more than 29,000 Rotary clubs, located in 163 countries.

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise. The Rotary motto is, "Service Above Self."



Children receive polio vaccines all around the world as a result of Rotary.

Rotarians live and work by a set of business ethics known as, "The 4-Way Test." It reads, "Of the things we think, say or do: 1. Is it the truth? 2. Is it fair to all concerned? 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships? and 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

The Bay St. Louis Rotary Club received its charter on July 29, 1925. There are currently 50 members, 15 women and 35 men. A woman, Hancock County Circuit Clerk, Pam Metzler, is the club's president.

The Bay St. Louis Rotary Club has made donations to many local groups and agencies, including the Bay Area Youth Soccer League, Gulf Pines Girl Scout Council, Hancock County Doll and Toy Fund, St. Vincent dePaul Society, Hancock County Food Pantry, the Nature Conservancy and others.

The Bay St. Louis Rotary Club participated in the Coast Cleanup Day, Kids Voting, Cruisin the Coast and sponsored Newspapers in Education at local schools.

And Rotary took an active leadership role, supporting many things we take for granted today. These include the chamber of commerce which Rotary helped to form way back in 1925.

It was the Bay St. Louis Rotary Club that championed a new hospital back in the fifties,

with financing through a Hill-Burton Federal Grant. Along with the money came many federal attachments and emotions were running high against the plan. Even though they knew it could lead to possible individual financial ruin, members of the Rotary Club supported the project because they could see the need for the county's citizens.

Then there was the issue of a new county jail in the eighties. Hancock County was under a federal order to improve and enlarge the old jail behind the courthouse. A new facility had to be built or the county faced massive fines and litigation. The only solution was a very unpopular bond issue to pay for it. Rotary helped to insure its passage.

But Rotary doesn't just work on a local level. All Rotary Clubs are part of Rotary International. And Rotary International can accomplish things which an individual government, country or nation cannot.

The one project that makes me the proudest to be a Rotarian was launched in 1985. It is the largest humanitarian effort ever undertaken by the private sector in support of an

international public health issue. It is Rotary's Polio Plus Project.

This ambitious project's goal is to eradicate polio from the face of the Earth.

This crippling childhood disease is easily preventable with an oral vaccine which costs a mere 50 cents per dose. Here in the United States it is no longer a problem, but until Rotary got involved, it was a major tragedy for much of the world. Thousands and thousands of children were suffering lifelong disabilities that could have been easily prevented with a simple, inexpensive vaccine.

Rotary did it! Rotary, and its medical members, crossed national and regional boundaries, cut through governmental red tape and went into the jungles, the third world countries, anywhere they were needed. All paid for by Rotarians.

To date, over 1 billion children worldwide have been immunized. There has been a 90 percent reduction in polio cases since 1988.

Rotary International, along with its partner organizations, are striving to be able to declare the world polio free by 2005.

Rotary is involved in many other social and humanitarian projects, both locally and worldwide. Far too many to cover in a single article.

Rotary is a good organization and I am proud to be a member.

Fiscal dilemma, flag controversy plague state

When he took office a little over a year ago, Ronnie Musgrove had no major impediments in his path toward leaving his cherished legacy as Mississippi's Education Governor.

Smooth sailing, it appeared then. A prosperous economy pouring tax revenue into the state treasury and no gut-wrenching, divisive issue on the racial front.

My, how quickly can huge boulders come rolling in from nowhere, threatening to turn a gubernatorial dream into a nightmare.

Suddenly Musgrove finds himself carrying two megaton burdens on his back:

* Persuading Mississippians to adopt a "2001 state flag" that will wipe out the vestige of the Old Confederacy from the flag they have known for over 100 years.

* Facing a national economic downturn that has hit Mississippi full blast, raising possibility of a state tax hike or

seeing his education dream go down the drain, along with crushing blows to all other state services.

The flag "issue" was dumped in Musgrove's lap initially when early last year the state Supreme Court held we no longer had an official state flag because the 1894 designating one with rebel stars and bars in the upper left corner was dropped from state law in 1906.

Musgrove could have done nothing. But he did something:

named a bi-racial, bi-partisan distinguished commission to either come up with a new flag or keep the old one with the Civil War tinge.

That's what has brought us now to an unprecedented April 17 statewide referendum for the people to decide which of two flag designs will go into the law books.

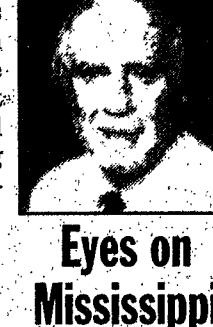
Nothing like this has ever been done before, the closest being a 1952 referendum on the statewide prohibition that was merely a straw vote, not binding in law. Of course, the "dry's" won handily.

None of the state fiscal leaders in 1999 foresaw the downturn in revenues - mostly due to much smaller economic growth - the state was to experience in 2000 (and is still under way) when the Musgrove administration began.

Doubtless, Musgrove, since the new state flag is now his baby whether he wanted it or not, will have to invest a huge amount of his political capital in getting the new flag adopted. If he should lose, the personal humiliation would dog his political career to an early end; to say nothing of how it would reinforce Mississippi's stereotype nationally as an unreconstructed Confederate state.

Still, Musgrove's biggest nightmare will be the state's fiscal dilemma, and the possibility of teacher pay cuts becoming imminent by March, when the

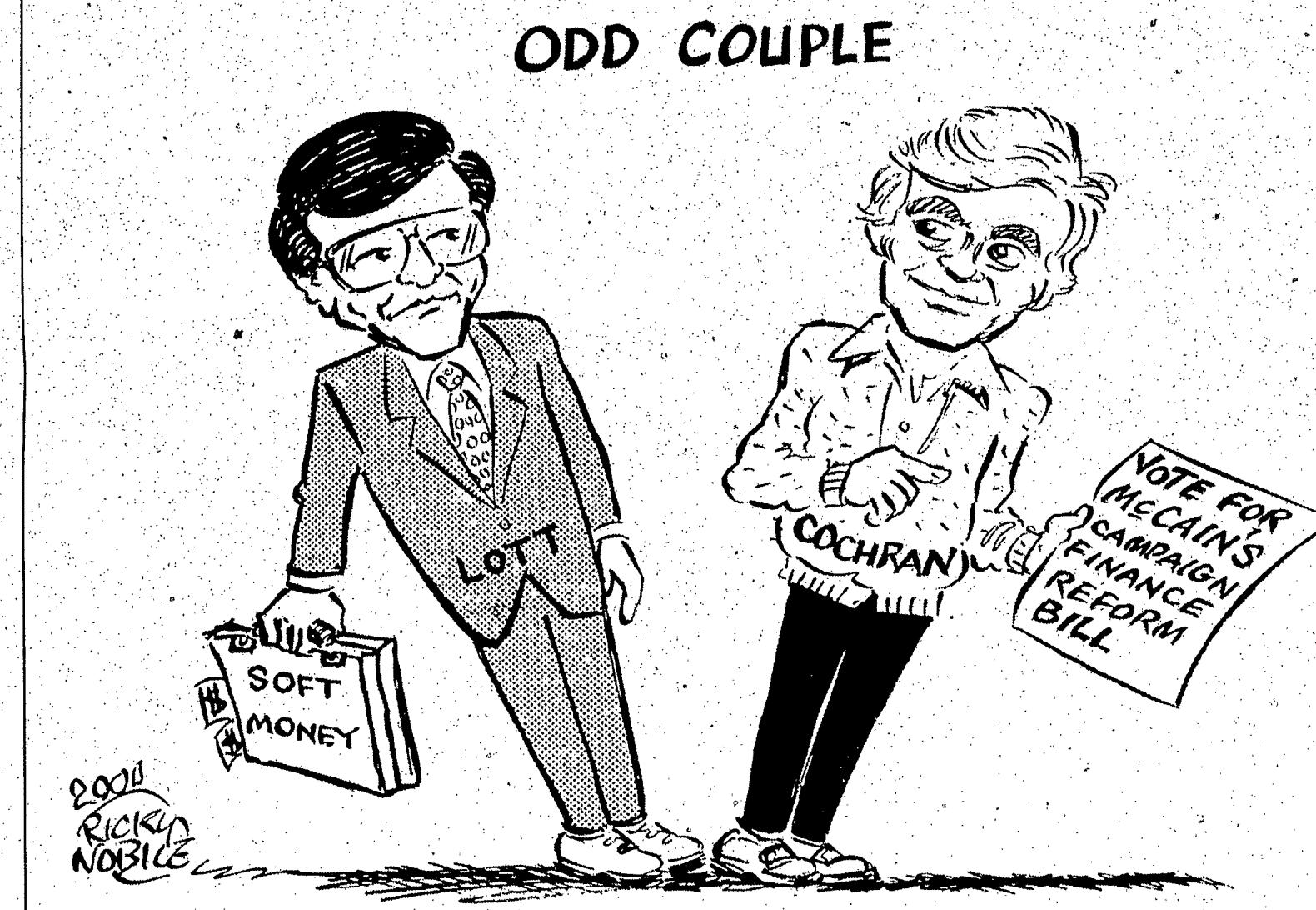
EYES-PAGE 5A



Eyes on Mississippi

By Bill Minor

Now as the economic cards are being dealt, what is becoming frighteningly realistic is the possibility the state will have to CUT, not raise teacher salaries unless some big, new pot of revenue is found.



Rotarians help provide crutches, braces, and other equipment.

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Military Mention



LT PHILLIPS

On Dec. 19, Henry L. Phillips IV was commissioned a Lieutenant in the United States Navy.

Lt. Phillips is the son of Trudy H. Phillips of Folsom, La. and the late H. L. Phillips III, and the grandson of Gertrude Helwig of Waveland and the late A. R. Helwig.

After a six-week orientation

in Newport, R.I., Lt. Phillips and his wife, the former Amelia Blackmon of Baton Rouge, will be stationed in Pensacola, Fla.

Phillips is a graduate of Louisiana State University and received his master's from the University of Houston.

He will receive his doctorate in industrial psychology later this year.

Narcotics Task Force report

The Hancock County Narcotics Task Force, in responding to information provided by concerned citizens, successfully recovered 13.04 grams of crack cocaine in the Pearlington area, having an estimated street value of \$950.

Hancock County Narcotics Task Force agents also recovered four separate misdemeanor amounts of marijuana and narcotics paraphernalia.

These seizures were made on Saturday, Dec. 9, in the City of Bay St. Louis, the City of Waveland and the rural areas of Hancock County.

Agents effectively utilized the information provided by the

concerned citizens which lead to the arrest of one individual for felony possession of a controlled substance and one individual for misdemeanor narcotics possession. Agents also issued numerous field release citations for other narcotics violations.

Hancock County Narcotics Task Force Agent J. J. Roberts says, the Narcotics Task Force utilizes citizens tips on a daily basis, and part of the task force's success is due to tips provided by citizens.

Anyone with information concerning narcotics violations is urged to contact the Hancock County Narcotics Task Force at 228-467-1496.

State studying proposal to buy rail service

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Delegation is planning a bold move to make South Mississippi a major player in international trade.

In a meeting this past week we met with business leaders from the Gulf Coast and officials from the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport to hear a proposal that could create another coastal economic expansion in the field of international trade. Our competitors are Louisiana and Alabama.

New Orleans has six intermodal rail yards and Mobile has two. Gulfport has none.

This puts us at a disadvantage in light of the fact that the way cargo is handled is changing.

In the past cargo was brought in on ships, unloaded by hand, loaded into trucks by hand and then put onto the road. Now the cargo arrives on board in a big container that is the size of the body of a big 18-wheeler.

The entire container is set either on wheels to be pulled by trucks or double stacked on rail cars to be transported by rail.

If the state were to purchase the rail and upgrade the tracks,

Currently the state port receives cargo that is placed on trucks and taken to Mobile and New Orleans to intermodal train yards to be shipped out on rail.

The problem facing us is that the rail line between Gulfport and Jackson is outdated and incapable of handling double stacked container cars.

This means that when containers arrive in Gulfport they must be transported by truck to rails in Mobile and New Orleans at great expense to port customers.

This dulls our competitive edge especially since it is expected that within 10 years 75% of all cargo will be shipped using the container method.

Presently Kansas City Southern Rail between Gulfport and Jackson is owned by Canadian National Railroad. Unfortunately they also own the links between Mobile and Jackson and New Orleans and Jackson. They have no incentive to or intention of upgrading the rail.

If the state were to purchase the rail and upgrade the tracks,

FROM THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE

By Representative Dirk Dedeaux

cargo ships would be more likely to unload in Gulfport without having to pilot up the crowded Mississippi River to New Orleans.

We would be prepared to handle the imminent boom of Latin American trade which is expected to increase rapidly. The cost of upgrading the tracks

would be recovered by the fees charged to port customers potentially making the project revenue neutral.

We are studying a proposal to do just that. This would also cut down on the number of big trucks that are on our roads. A single train would replace 150-300 trucks daily.

Eyes

Continued from Page 4A

Legislature, not the least bit now so inclined, to buy it.

That's why the flag issue, inevitably triggering passions not seen in Mississippi since the 1960s civil rights movement, is coming at the very worst time for Musgrove.

Many reading this about a possible tax hike becoming necessary will dismiss it as alarmist talk, like yelling "fire" in a crowded theater.

I wish that were true. But the hard facts are that the GOOD TIMES back in the 90s when the multi-billion dollar casinos/hotels were being built, the general economy was booming, and the state treasury was having 10 and 11 percent annual growth in revenues are over.

Amazingly, no wild new spending programs were begun in those years, unless you consider a 400 per cent increase in corrections spending to be one. Even such important new programs as CHIP (Child Health Insurance) were made possible by the infusion of the windfall from the tobacco lawsuit settlement.

UM announces honor students

The University of Mississippi has released the Chancellor's and Dean's Honor Rolls for the fall semester.

A grade point average from 3.75 through 4.0 is required of full-time students carrying at least 12 semester hours for listing on the Chancellor's Honor Roll.

A grade point average from 3.5 through 3.74 is required of full-time students carrying at least 12 semester hours for listing on the Dean's Honor roll.

Local students include:

Chancellor's List: Leslie Wayne Socket and Sarah Michele Sackett, both of Bay St. Louis; Kimberly Marie Cyr of Pass Christian; and Robert Paul Garrett Jr. of Diamondhead.

Dean's List: Elizabeth Mary Harris and Richard R. Mestayer, both of Bay St. Louis; and Richard Wayne Watson of Waveland.

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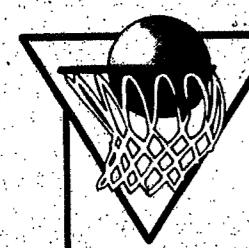
We've moved to our new Bay St. Louis Branch on the East side of Highway 90 at 1060C Highway 90, Bay St. Louis. Your new branch includes expanded parking and an ATM that is now fully operational, as well as a drive-up window to better serve you, so please visit soon!

We apologize for any inconvenience to our members due to the relocation of our branch and the installation of our ATM at its new location. Difficulties beyond our control that delayed the functioning of the ATM have been addressed and it is now fully operational for your convenience. And remember, anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Hancock or Harrison County is eligible to join... so take advantage of your not-for-profit community credit union's lower loan rates, higher savings rates, and low or no fee services! Experience the credit union difference - come by our new branch office in Bay St. Louis or call us at 467-8300!

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SPORTS



BASKETBALL. update

SSC holds on for 79-72 win over Hancock

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II
Staff Writer

The St. Stanislaus Rock-a-chaws and the Hancock Hawks locked horns in a Division 7 Class 4A battle at the Brother Peter Memorial Gymnasium on Friday, January 19. The evenly split crowd watched as the Hawks gave the Rocks all they could handle before falling to SSC 79-72 in the final minutes.

SSC head coach Jay Ladner stated, "Anytime Hancock and SSC play, it is going to be a good game. And, tonight wasn't any different. I give the credit to Hancock because they got after us. They shot the ball very well and did a better job of managing their game. For us, at different points in the game we had different players stepping up. That was good to see. Hancock fought back everytime we would get a lead. I think the key to the game was with about four minutes remaining, we went into the delay and were able to take off a little more than three minutes off the clock. We had several players in foul trouble and had already lost one. That helped us to preserve the win."

SSC opened up a 6-0 lead at the beginning of the game behind steals and buckets by Grady Willis and Lee Howard. The Hawks pulled to within a point when Kael Peterson scored with 2:42 remaining and

made the count 12-11. SSC went on to take the lead after the first period 19-17.

In the second period, Hancock took their first lead of the game with 6:36 left to play when Peterson scored inside the lane to make the count 21-19.

SSC took the lead back permanently with a Brandon Arcement three-pointer with 4:07 remaining in the half to make the score 24-23. The Rocks pushed the margin to nine points with just over a minute play with two Jason Santiago free throws; however, the Hawks held their composure and scored the final bucket of the half. Cody Ladner canned two points with :03 left to play to make the score 38-31.

SSC opened the second half of play pushing their lead to 46-33 behind a Santiago basket with 6:42 left to play in the period. The Rocks kept their 13-point lead over the Hawks ending the third period with a score of 63-50.

The fourth period saw the Hawks explode for 22 points to SSC's 19 points. Santiago put the Rocks up 71-55 nailing a trey with 5:46 left in the game.

The Hawks charged back with a 15-2 run. Peterson started the charge with a basket at the 5:25 mark. Cody Ladner, Zach Nelson, and Jason Phillips all contributed buckets during

the run that cut the Rocks' lead to 73-70.

The Rocks hit four clutch free throws in the final :28 to preserve the win over the charging Hawks.

Hancock mentor Michael Ladner commented, "We have been concentrating on managing our game better and tonight we were able to do it. SSC has some tremendous guards in Grady Willis, Jason Santiago, and Brandon Arcement. We knew that we needed to score with them and we were able to shoot the ball well tonight. Our scoring was very balanced tonight. The biggest thing was we gave ourselves a chance to win the game late at their gym. I thought that both teams played a hard game. I was very impressed with our players. I am proud of them."

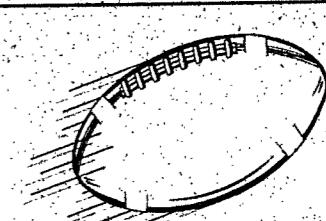
Cody Ladner led the Hawks (9-16, 3-8) with 21 points and five rebounds. Zach Nelson scored 15 points while pulling down seven rebounds. Other double-digit scorers for Hancock

were Kael Peterson with 14 points and Jason Phillips with 11 points.

SSC (19-7, 6-2) was led by Brandon Arcement and Jason Santiago with 21 points each. Arcement nailed four three-pointers in the contest. Grady Willis added 19 points while Lee Howard chipped in 10 points for SSC.

The next game for the Hawks will be on Tuesday, January 23, at Columbia. The Blue Devils of PRC will invade the Rock-house to try and avenge a 61-50 loss to the Rocks last week, which happened to be the 200th career win for SSC head coach Jay Ladner. Family, friends, players, and school officials honored Jay Ladner's 200th career win with a reception in the lobby of the gym following the Hancock game. He was presented a commemorative basketball marking his 200th win by Richie Santiago and the Rock-a-chaw basketball supporters. A gold chain and whistle was presented to him by his players.

Harmon Forecast



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PRCC splits with East Central

Pearl River Community College's Wildcats remain tied for the lead in the men's South Division basketball race after recording an 82-70 victory over East Central's Warriors here Thursday in M.R. White Coliseum.

The Wildcats, 13-3 overall and undefeated at 5-0 in the division, remain deadlocked with Mississippi Gulf Coast for the division lead, setting the stage for a mammoth showdown in Perkinston this Tuesday. Gulf Coast, 14-3 and 5-0, was a 64-58 winner over Southwest in overtime Thursday in Perkinston.

The Lady Wildcats, on the other hand, dropped their fifth straight game since returning from the Christmas holidays with a 64-48 setback to the Lady Warriors and dropped to 9-7 overall and 2-3.

East Central's men dropped to 9-7 and 1-4, while its women improved to 13-3 and 4-1.

In the men's game, the Wildcats trailed for the first 11 minutes of the game until point Wand Steward of Houma, La., hit back-to-back three pointers to give PRCC a 26-23 lead with 8:30 left in the half. Two minutes later, Winfred Craig hit a trey to give East Central its final lead of the night, even

though the Warriors managed to tie things up three times during the remaining time before the half.

Pearl River led 44-40 at the intermission. Taboris Lindsey of Hattiesburg sank two foul shots with 17 seconds left in the game for the final points of the night. His effort pushed PRCC's lead to 12 points, its biggest of the night.

Lindsey finished with a game-high 27 points (two three pointers), while Steward added 23 points and dished out six assists. James Singleton of Chicago scored 15 and grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds. Ernest Nixon, Steward's prep teammate at Ellender High in Houma, hit for eight points (six rebounds). Artrise (Freeze) Stampley of Baton Rouge four, John Mathis of Poplarville three, and Zeke Davis of St. Stanislaus two.

East Central's Markeith Brown led the Warriors with 19 points, including three treys and six boards; while James Denson and Chris Webb added 13 and 11, respectively.

PRCC was 20 of 24 (80 percent) at the foul line, while hitting 52 percent from the field.

PRCC--PAGE 7A

PRC drops Hancock 71-53

The Hancock Hawks dropped a Division 7 Class 4A game to the homestanding Pearl River Central Blue Devils on Tuesday, January 16, by the score of 71-53.

Hancock jumped out to a 12-4 lead in the first period but could only manage four points in the second period to fall behind 30-16 at the break.

The second period breakdown proved to be too much for the Hawks to overcome.

Cody Ladner paced the Hawks with 14 points followed by Kael Peterson with 13 points.

The loss drops Hancock to 9-15 overall and 3-7 in the division.

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SPORTS

Bowtell to represent Sea Wolves on All-Star roster

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II
Staff Writer

The Mississippi Sea Wolves will be represented by center Cody Bowtell at the ALLTEL/ECHL All-Star game to be held on Wednesday, February 13, at the ALLTEL Arena in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The 5-11, 190-pound center leads the team in goals this season with 17 and is third on the team in points with 31 through 34 games.

Bowtell is one of six remaining players on the team that

claimed the 1998-99 Kelly Cup Championship. He came to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the Sea Wolves via a trade with the PeeDee Pride following the 1997-98 season.

Last year, he split time between Mississippi and the Lowell Lock Monsters of the American Hockey League who are coached by former Mississippi Sea Wolves mentor Bruce Boudreau.

Bowtell is playing in his first all-star game. The contest will be televised live on ESPN2 at 7 p.m.



StingRays looking for new players for second season

BY DWAYNE BREMER
Contributing Writer

They're back! After a successful 8-3 first year, the Gulf Coast StingRays will return to the gridiron for another season of hard hitting, action-packed, NAFL football.

The team will host its first tryouts for the new season next Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. at the practice field next to the Bay St. Louis Fire Dept.

"We are hopeful to retain some of our talent from last year, but we would like to make some improvements in certain areas," said head Coach Matt Karl.

The StingRays will be on the lookout for some offensive talent. Last year, the offense struggled down the stretch because of injuries and a lack of speed.

On defense, the StingRays will hope to keep together a talented group that was the strong point of the team. Last year's group under the coaching of



Steve Odham was one of the best defenses in the conference, and the StingRays sent three defensive players to the NAFL all-star game.

The StingRays will be moving to a different conference this year, as they will face teams from Florida, Alabama, and Georgia.

Schedules and ticket information will be available shortly.

Anyone looking to be a part of the StingRays can call 467-4404.

"I know there is a lot of talent in the area, we would like to see what everyone has to offer," Karl said.

Conservation Corner

Wildlife seed available

By James L. Cummins
Whether you are a photographer, hunter or like viewing wildlife, anyone who has spent time overlooking a food plot will have a deep appreciation for wildlife plantings.

Food plots are very attractive to wildlife because they can supplement their daily nutritional needs at a low cost. These plots can be designed to serve as a source of food and cover. Well-managed food plots have the potential to increase numbers of wildlife, quality of health and observability.

To aid landowners who would like to plant wildlife food plots, Wildlife Mississippi, working in cooperation with Resource Management, Inc. and Pioneer Hi-Bred International has initiated a Wildlife Habitat Seed Program. Through this program, Wildlife Mississippi will make seed available at a minimal cost.

The Wildlife Habitat Seed Program is designed to provide an incentive for landowners to establish and maintain food plots that will yield a variety of benefits to the landowner as well as the species of wildlife he or she is managing. Winter wheat, corn, soybean, grain sorghum and sunflower seed will be available through the 2001 Wildlife Habitat Seed Program.

All seed has been treated and has excellent germination rates.

The seed is provided by Pioneer Hi-bred International and is distributed through Resource Management to the Foundation. Various types of seed are available.

If planted properly, they will be utilized by a variety of species of wildlife. White-tailed deer, turkeys, bobwhite quail, mourning doves, waterfowl and many species of songbirds will benefit from these plantings.

The guidelines regarding this program are simple and easy to follow. Anyone interested in obtaining seed should send a written request to Wildlife Mississippi for an order form and planting recommendations for the seed.

Wildlife Mississippi will be taking orders up until February 16, 2001. This will allow the staff to place the orders in a timely manner to ensure that they will be filled.

The costs will be \$12 per 50 lb. bag for corn, \$8 per 50 lb. bag for sorghum and soybeans, \$8 per 20 lb. bag for sunflowers and \$4 per 50 lb. bag for wheat, including shipping and handling. Persons ordering seed will be required to pick it up in Amory, Greenville, or Hattiesburg.

For an order form and planting recommendations for this unique program, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Wildlife Mississippi, P.O. Box 10, Stoneville, MS 38776.

BASEBALL update

Bay St. Louis Babe Ruth Baseball League registration

Registration for the 2001 baseball season begins

Saturday, Jan. 27 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the baseball complex on Athletic Drive in Bay St. Louis.

The season will begin April 7. Tryouts will begin the week of March 3.

Parents should bring their child to registration so that the child may be measured for a

uniform.

For information, contact

Mary Turcotte at 466-9400.

Registration dates are:

Saturday, Jan. 27, 1-5 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 5-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 3, 1-5 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 5-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 1-5 p.m.

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Obituaries

DOYLE BISHOP
Margaret Fontenot
IRIS HUGHES
THADDEOUS JACKSON SR.
NAZARE J. LADNER

DOYLE BISHOP
Doyle Bishop, 73, of Pass Christian, died Friday, Jan. 19, 2001 in Biloxi.

Arrangements are incomplete at Riemann Funeral Home Bay St. Louis.

MARGARET FONTENOT
Margaret Fontenot, 70, of Kiln, died Thursday, Jan. 18, 2001, in Gulfport.

Mrs. Fontenot was a native of Lockport, La. and a member of Annunciation Catholic Church in Kiln.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Ella Bourgeois Lusco; brothers Huey Lusco and Frank Lusco Jr.; and sisters Holly Lusco and Teresa Phipps.

Survivors include her husband, Hilton Fontenot of Kiln; sons Harold Fontenot of Waveland, Frank Fontenot of Gulf Breeze, Fla.; daughters Charlene Ferrill of Bay St. Louis, Cindy Caldwell of West Lake, La.; brothers Tommy Lusco of Metairie, Sammy Lusco, Ralph Lusco, Daniel Lusco and Bobby Lusco, all of Kenner; sisters Anna Mae Cheramie of Kentwood, La., Ella Mae Lusco, Nettie Lanier and Sonya Lannes, all of Kenner; 16 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Visitation will be Monday, Jan. 22, noon-2 p.m. at Annunciation Catholic Church followed by services and burial in St. Joseph Cemetery at Rotten Bayou.

Riemann Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis is in charge of arrangements.

IRIS HUGHES
Iris C. Hughes, age unavailable, died Friday, Jan. 19, 2001, in Gulfport.

Arrangements are incomplete at J.T. Hall Funeral Home in Gulfport.

THADDEOUS JACKSON SR.
Thaddeous Jackson Sr., 74, of

Pearl River, died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2001, in Gulfport.

Mr. Jackson was a native of Bay Springs and was employed as a bus driver for the Gulf Coast Transit Authority. He was a member of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Pearl River.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Arleta Jackson; a son, Robert Jackson; and a daughter, Iris Jackson.

Survivors include four sons, Thaddeous Jackson Jr. and Donald Jackson, both of Waveland, C. H. Jackson of Slidell and James Peters of Pearl River; five daughters, Rosa Jackson of Pearl River, Linda Jackson of Bay St. Louis, Gloria Toca of Biloxi, Deborah Moore of Slidell and Delores Hopkins of Bogalusa, La.; two sisters, Nobie Woodson of Picayune and Annie Ruth Thompson of Slidell; a brother, Nathaniel Jackson of Columbus, Ohio; 22 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Visitation and services were conducted Saturday at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Pearl River. Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22, in Biloxi National Cemetery.

Bayous Funeral Home in Picayune is in charge of arrangements.

NAZARE J. LADNER

Nazare J. "N.J." Ladner, 82, of Bay St. Louis, died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2001, in Bay St. Louis.

Mr. Ladner was a native and lifelong resident of Hancock County.

He was preceded in death by a son, Norman Ladner; a daughter, Bertie Faye Ladner; his parents, Salvador and Mary Ladner; three brothers, Ernest Ladner, Arvis Ladner and Edward Ladner; and a sister, Lillian Page.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia Ladner of Bay St. Louis; four sons, Jimmy Ladner of Gulfport, Dr. Larry Ladner of Atlanta, Lonnie Ladner of Hattiesburg and Charles Ladner of Bay St. Louis; a daughter, Elma Lou Rush of Bay St. Louis; four stepsons, David Mixon of Jackson, Daniel Mixon of Hallsville, Texas, Warren Scelson and Robert Scelson, both of Bay St. Louis; a stepdaughter, Debra Lane of Atlanta; three sisters, Flora Lee Necaise, Lillie Shavers and Arneva Bryant, all of Kiln; eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and seven stepgrandchildren.

Visitation was Saturday at Riemann Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis. A service will be conducted today, Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. in the funeral home chapel followed by burial in Standard Sandhill Cemetery.

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Student of the Month

The Hancock County Exchange Club's Student of the Month for September was Amy Ellis of Our Lady Academy. Those in photo are, from left, Kim Ellis, mother; Amy Ellis, Ron Barnes, Coast Electric's marketing manager and sponsor; Sister Donella Hartman, principal of OLA; and Janell Nolan, Exchange chairperson for Student of the Month.



Dempsey addresses Rotary

Bay High's Rusty Dempsey, community and parents relations director, was a recent speaker at the Bay St. Louis Rotary Club. In photo with Dempsey is Pam Metzler, Bay Rotary president. Dempsey presented a slide presentation about the schools and spoke of ways how community leaders can support schools. Photo by Bob Hubbard.



Rotary Teacher of the Month

Mary Kaye Jones, center, was recently honored as the Bay St. Louis Rotary Club's Teacher of the Month. Jones is a longtime teacher at Bay Senior High. Those in photo are, from left, Bob Hubbard, Rotary education chairman, Jones, and Bill Broadway, Bay High principal. Echo staff photo by Ellis C. Cuevas.

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Goodwill speakers

Recent speakers for Goodwill Industries of the Gulf Coast were, from left, Jim Collins, public relations director, and Bob Campbell, director of used goods. The duo talked about the role of Goodwill and the jobs it provides for the handicapped, such as stocking the Keesler Commissary and mail delivery on the post. Goodwill Industries of South Mississippi has over 200 employees, of which 75% are handicapped. Campbell is also in charge of the Goodwill Stores of which one is located in Bay St. Louis. Collins is a member of the Bay St. Louis Rotary Club. Photo by Bob Hubbard.

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- Registered Sonographer and Echocardiographer
- Instructor at University at Southern Mississippi teaching electrocardiography
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Dr. Sonya Spencer
Chiropractor

- Dr. Hoda is also pleased to announce the association of Dr. Sonya Spencer at Hoda Chiropractic Clinic in Diamondhead. Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8am - 6pm and Saturdays by appointment.

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BUSINESS NEWS



Echo staff photo by Suzanne Carlson

Ribbon cutting

Twin Oaks at Pass Christian held a ribbon cutting Thursday to celebrate its new facility at 410 St. Louis Street. Twin Oaks is an assisted living community and is continuing its grand opening today from 2-4 p.m. with refreshments, tours and entertainment. For more information, call 228-452-1448. Participating in the ribbon cutting are Lallah Walker, front row at left, Pass Christian Mayor Billy McDonald, Jean Davis, Pat McPeak, and back row from left, Alex Hill, Curt Appel, Doug McNeill, Cindy Watson and Mike Pou.

Cellular South adds 3 new local account representatives

Herbert Dubuisson, Jr., Brandi Ricca and Amy Rutledge have joined Cellular South as Account Service representatives at the Bay St. Louis store located at 301 Highway 90.

Dubuisson, originally from Bay St. Louis, was previously employed as assistant campaign director with Congressman Gene Taylor.

He is a member of the Hancock County Chamber Ambassadors Committee, American Cancer Society and holds a Mississippi real estate license.

Originally from New Orleans, Ricca is a graduate of University of Southern Mississippi and was previously employed at ADT Security Services in Mobile, Ala. She has more than three years sales experience.



Dubuisson



Ricca



Rutledge

Business workshop set at USM

The USM Small Business Development Center is offering a workshop, "Thinking About Going Into Business?" on Thursday, Jan. 25, 1:30-4 p.m. at the Gulfport Police Department Auditorium, 2220 15th Street, Gulfport.

The workshop is for anyone interested in starting a small business and will cover general small business start-up information, such as licensing, taxes, zoning, market research, business planning, and financing.

The instructor will be Jill Scafide, business analyst at the USM Small Business Development Center.

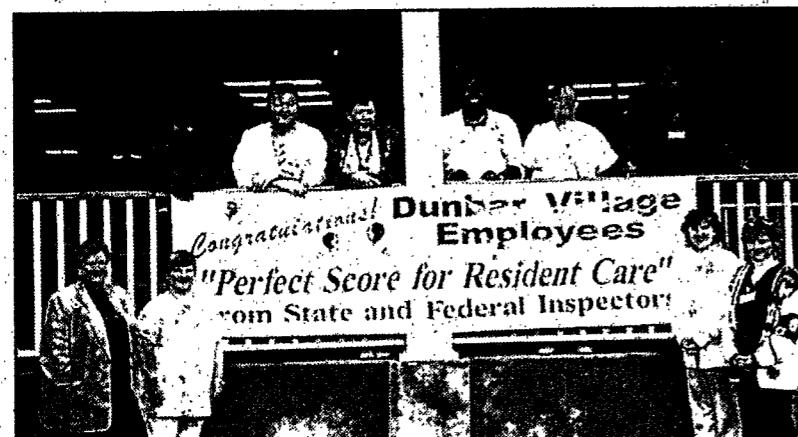
The fee is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. To prepay, mail check made payable to USM SBDC to USM Small Business Development Center, 136 Beach Park Place, Long Beach, MS 39560.

For information, contact the USM Small Business Development Center at 228-865-4578.

Shopping center group to meet in Biloxi, Feb. 1

The International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) in conjunction with the Economic Development Association of Alabama, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, and the Mississippi Development Authority presents the Gulf South Alliance Program on Thursday, Feb. 1 at the Beau Rivage Casino Hotel, Biloxi.

For those who wish to attend both the Gulf South Alliance Program and the Gulf South Idea Exchange, advance registration fees are \$190 for members, \$235 for non-members and \$90 for government officials and nonprofit community groups.



Perfect score

Employees of Dunbar Village Nursing Home gather around banner on front of their building announcing the perfect score they received from state and federal inspectors for the quality of their nursing care. Front row, from left, Executive Director Jill Mack, LPN Deanna Adkins, Director of Nursing, Cynthia Geroux, R.N., and Nurse Supervisor Shari Negrotto, R.N.; back row, CNA Angela Trahan, LPN Barbara Taylor, Nurse Supervisor Patsy Lawless, R.N., Dietary Manager and LPN Maria Scipio, LPN Helen Hall, and CNA Karen Perkins.

Halter Marine awarded contract for research vessels

Friede Goldman Halter, Inc. (NYSE: FGH), announced that its vessel construction business unit, Halter Marine, Inc., had been informed by the offices of Senator Trent Lott (R-MS) and Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) that it has been awarded a contract by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce for the detailed design and construction of the first of four Fisheries Research Vessels, designated the FRV-40 class.

The contract also includes the provision of spare parts, technical services and options to build three additional ships. The total value of the base contract is \$38.3 million. If all possible options are exercised, the total value of the contract could ultimately exceed \$165 million.

Engineering of the first ship will begin immediately and construction will follow at Halter Marine's shipyard in Moss Point with delivery scheduled in 36 months.

It is expected that the options for additional vessels will be exercised as Congress incrementally appropriates funds for them. The contract is expected to create approximately 150 new jobs at the Halter Moss Point shipyard.

The FRV-40 class vessels will

have an overall length of 208 feet, a beam of 49 feet and a molded depth of 28 feet. They will be designed and built to the requirements of the American Bureau of Shipping. The four ships will be based in Kodiak, Alaska; Woods Hole, Mass.; Newport, Ore.; and Pascagoula.

"We are extremely pleased that NOAA has chosen Halter for this very significant program," said John Afford, chief executive officer of Friede Goldman Halter.

"NOAA's award reaffirms Halter's leadership position in the design and construction of scientific research and surveillance ships.

Successful U.S. Navy programs such as the T-AAGS 13-18 ocean surveillance ships, the TAGS 23 SWATH ocean surveillance ship, the TAGS 51-52 coastal hydrographic survey ships and the TAGS 60-65 hydrographic survey ships gave NOAA confidence in our ability to build very quiet ships.

"In addition, the AGOR 23-25 oceanographic research ships for the University National Laboratory System, and the NOAA Research Vessel 'Ronald Brown' demonstrated to NOAA our ability to design and build the world's most advanced research ships."

Gulfport-Biloxi Regional passenger traffic up 15%

In calendar year 2000, 949,220 passengers traveled through the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport. This marks a 15.2% increase over the 823,760 passengers that traveled through the airport in calendar year 1999.

Several additions to air service options lead to an increase in seats available for Gulfport-Biloxi passengers. Over 3,500 daily seats were offered in calendar year 2000, versus a little over 3,300 in 1999.

"With additional air service by Northwest Airlines and Canada 3000, travelers are finding the Gulfport-Biloxi

Regional Airport more convenient and affordable.

"The Airport Authority appreciates the continued support and recognizes our customers have a choice and they are continuing to choose Gulfport-Biloxi," said Airport Authority Chairman Ron Werby.

2001 is expected to be another growth year for the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport. More jet gates and more aircraft parking area are being constructed to accommodate additional air service expected in 2001.

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ALCAN ALUM/AL	34.33 ¹²	+ 1.38
AT & T/T	24.11 ¹²	- 1.16
AUTOZONE INC/AZG	28 ¹²	- 1.4
BELLSOUTH/BLS	43 ¹²	- 1.7
BOEING/BA	55 ¹²	+ 4.14
CALGON CARBON/CCC	6 ¹²	+ 3.14
CHEVRON CORP/CHV	79 ¹²	- 1.16
COCA COLA/KO	55 ¹²	- 1.12
CSX CORP/CSX	27 ¹²	+ 1.14
DUPONT/DD	42 ¹²	+ 1.26
FRIEDE GOLDMAN HALTER, INC.	5 ¹²	+ 1.12
GENERAL ELEC/GE	47 ¹²	+ 1.18
GOODYEAR TIRE/GT	23 ¹²	+ 1.12
HANCOCK HOLDING CO/HBHC	37 ¹²	- 1.16
INTL BUSINESS MACHINE/IBM	111 ¹²	+ 17 ¹²
INTL PAPER-CGP/IP	34 ¹²	+ 2.24
K MART CORP/KM	7 ¹²	+ 1.16
LOCKHEED MARTIN/LMT	31 ¹²	- 1.12
PARK PLACE ENT/PPE	10 ¹²	+ 3.16
PEOPLES FINANCIAL/PFBX	15 ¹²	+ 1.14
MCDONALDS CORP/MCD	32 ¹²	- 1.12
REGIONS FINANCIAL/RGFR	28 ¹²	+ 3.12
ROCKWELL INTL CORP/ROK	48 ¹²	+ 1.16
SOUTHERN COMPANY/SO	28 ¹²	+ 1.16
TENNECO INC/TEN	3 ¹²	+ 1.16
UNION PLANTERS/UPC	38 ¹²	+ 2.16
WAL MART STORES/WMT	50 ¹²	- 2.16
WELLMAN INC/WLM	14 ¹²	+ 1.12
WHITNEY HOLDING/WTNY	39 ¹²	+ 3.12

Submitted by Craig Foster, Edward Jones Co.

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Entertainment

Krewe of Kamehameha announces royalty

By Marcia Frisina

Diamondhead Boaters presented its annual coronation ball Jan. 6 at the Diamondhead Country Club. The revelers (Court of 2000) handed out beads to all the guests, parading to the tune of "Why We Dance at Mardi Gras."

King Akua Kai XXVI and Queen Pam Marshall made one last promenade around the ballroom to the tune "If Ever I Cease to Love."

They then announced the Dolphin Award which goes to an individual who has gone above and beyond the call of duty working for a better Boaters Association. Lord Jack Klein was given this award.

The monarchs crowned the new royalty, King Akua Kai XXVII Bob Gonzalez and Queen Becky Jordan.

The newly crowned queen was elegantly attired in a sheath of royal blue velvet, with a beaded and sequined strapless sweetheart bodice.

King Bob was resplendent in black tails. Former Krewe of Kamehameha royalty present at the ball were Queen Pat Stafford 1982, Queen Bernice Turner 1983, Queen Mary Lou and King Bud Freeman 1985, Queen Nina Cotton 1991, Queen Lee Seglund and King Bob Wood 1993 and Queen Gloria Gasper 1994.

Also, Queen Terri Downie and King Harold Turner 1995, Queen Kathy Wood and King Jesse Morgan 1996, Queen Rusty Cobb and King Frank Gasper 1997, Queen Pat Morgan and King Mickey Jordan 1998, and Queen Shirley Blanchflower 1999.

Commodore Ramirez presented engraved goblets to the new monarchs from the krewe. The royal colors were presented by Bernice Turner.

The Alii medallions were presented to the new king and queen by "Regina in Charge" Shirley Blanchflower.

A symbol of "royalty," the medallion is worn at all carnival functions and Alii affairs.

King Bob and his Queen then invited all guests to join them in the first dance to the tune of "Unforgettable."

After a gourmet meal, the second line was performed, and at that time the very large king cake and our very own baby was paraded around the room before being served.

The Decoration Committee consisted of Kristin Alyea, Susan Holcomb, Jesette Grace and Chris Marz.

The master of ceremonies was Al Grace. Chairperson was Jesette Grace and the music was provided by Primetime. The Mardi Gras Ball will be held Feb. 3 at the Country Club.



King Akua Kai XXVII Bob Gonzalez and Queen Becky Jordan

Bay Little Theater 'Little Shop'

The Bay St. Louis Little Theater presents the mandibled musical about a man-eating plant, "Little Shop of Horrors." The final performance is today at 2:00 p.m. at the Bay St. Louis Little Theater, 301 Boardman Avenue in Bay St. Louis.

The play features expressionistic set designs and monster by local creature-creator Kevin Webster.

The production is directed by Jay Cocker and stars Seymour Kreiborn, Jonathan Peel, Audrey, Alicein Renard; Mrs.

vocal direction, Anthony and Sandy Starcher.

Tickets are \$12. For information, contact Sherry Webster at 463-0615.

Jerry Lee Lewis tickets on sale

Tickets are on sale for the Jerry Lee Lewis concert scheduled at Casino Magic Bay St. Louis for Saturday, Jan. 27 at 9 p.m. in the Magic Entertainment Complex.

Lewis is known for hits like "Whole Lot Of Shakin' Going On," "Great Balls of Fire," "Breathless," and "High School Confidential."

Tickets are \$20, \$25 and \$30 and may be purchased through Ticketmaster or through the Casino Magic Bay St. Louis Box Office at 463-4035.

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Beau Rivage named to top travel list

Beau Rivage Resort was named to *Condé Nast Traveler Magazine's* Seventh Annual Gold List of World's Best Places to Stay.

The January issue outlines the results of a survey in which nearly 26,000 *Condé Nast* subscribers voted for their favorite hotels, resorts and cruise lines based on service, ambiance, rooms, restaurants and activities. Beau Rivage is one of only two properties in Mississippi and one of 176 hotels and resorts within the United States selected.

Magazine subscribers were asked to share firsthand experiences of their favorite places. Quotes describing Beau Rivage include the "sumptuous lobby with tons of flowers" is a prelude to the "big, beautifully decorated" rooms. "The casino and beach are at your fingertips" as is "a great club with live music."

Beau Rivage's name means

"beautiful shore," and the design blends the charm and character of the Mediterranean with elegant Southern touches.

A sense of the Old South welcomes guests as they drive up the entrance lane under a canopy of majestic 75-year-old live oaks. Inside the hotel lobby, thousands of real plants and flowers surround the Ficus Alii trees, which rise 25 feet to the ceiling of a soaring, glass atrium.

Amenities include a world-class spa, salon and fitness area, a beautifully landscaped pool, a shopping promenade, marina, Sportsman's Lodge and 12 restaurants with cuisine to suit every taste and budget.

For more information, contact (888) 56-ROOMS or (228) 386-7444 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. seven days a week. Information also is available on Beau Rivage's website at www.beaurivage.com.

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COMMUNITY

Mr. Musgrove comes to town



Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove looked on last week as Cleveland Wyatt's daughter Beverly, right, and friend Larry Ladner accepted the award, proclaiming Wyatt Hancock County's Citizen of the Year in an emotional ceremony at Casino Magic Bay St. Louis's Entertainment Complex. The event was hosted by the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce, which chose Wyatt to receive the honor for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Kiln community.



The Hancock County Library System's staff and board of directors were also honored at the event, receiving the Chamber's Community-Pride Award.



Bay St. Louis artist Paula Leoni presents Musgrove with an original artwork she painted in his honor. Also pictured are Chamber President Dusty Rhodes, left, and Donna Davenport of The Loft.



Musgrove with Bay St. Louis City Councilman Bill Taylor, left, and his wife Lila; and Councilman Jim Thriffiley and his wife Jean Ann English Thriffiley.



Musgrove with Chamber of Commerce Vice-President Jody Comprettta, left, and state Rep. J.P. Comprettta.



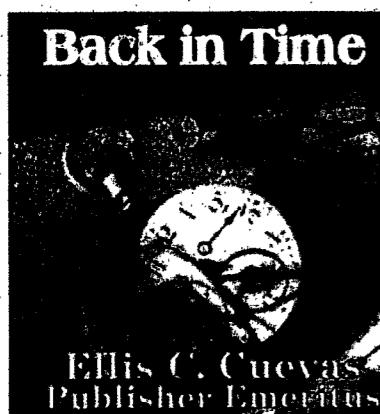
Musgrove with Bay St. Louis Mayor Eddie Favre.



Musgrove with the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce's Helen Gaines, left, and Carleen Moran.

Echo staff photos by Geoff Belcher

1963: Gas station attendant/policeman busts pair with hi-fi



Back in Time

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

January 2, 1986 - Technology and new facilities changed the way tax records are kept in Hancock County and further advances are expected during 1986. According to Tax Collector-Assessor Eddie Murtagh, 1985 saw many changes in his office. The tax office moved out of its outgrown quarters in the courthouse into the Hancock County Courthouse Annex, formerly the McDonald Furniture Building,

providing room for expansion of services as well as the office's computer system. Presently, two systems, one provided through South Mississippi Planning and Development District (SMYPDD), and one through the state are being used. The SYMPDD system is used for records on taxes while the state system is used for car tag records.

-Jail preparations (Photo - Beat Five Supervisor James Travirca, directs a crew remov-

ing logs and debris from the site for the new county jail, which will be constructed behind the Sea Coast Echo building. Groundbreaking is scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday.

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO

January 10, 1963 - Never try to pawn a questionable article to a police officer, if you expect to get by with it. Two men from Atlanta, Ga., both with police records, tried to trick about noon Saturday, Porter's Gulf

Service, not suspecting that the attendant was City Police Officer Nathan Garriga, and within an hour ended up in the county jail on charges of possessing burglary tools and narcotics. The pair tried to pawn a hi-fi phonograph at Porter's and Garriga steered them out to U.S. 90, suggesting "one of the places out there might buy it." As the men drove away, Garriga called the sheriff's department, where Deputy Gerard Freeman radioed Chief Deputy Gerald

Price Jr., who swung by Porter's, picked up Garriga and they arrested the pair after they sold the record player for \$3 cash and \$2 of gas at another service station.

FORTY-NINE YEARS AGO

January 4, 1952 - Robert L. Hamilton, Major U.S. Army has been called to active duty. Major Hamilton, who has been employed at the local Hancock Bank for a number of years, will

TIME--PAGE 2B

What's for Lunch?

Jan. 22-26

BSL-Waveland School District
Chef Salad, Milk and Condiments served daily

BREAKFAST
Monday: Glazed Donut, Assorted Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice

Tuesday: Sausage and Biscuit, Assorted Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice

Wednesday: French Toast Sticks, Assorted Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice

Thursday: Sausage and Biscuit, Assorted Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice

Friday: Breakfast Pizza, Assorted Cereal, Toast, Juice

LUNCH

Monday: Pepperoni Pizza, BBQ Pork on Bun, Whole Kernel Corn, Baked Beans, Fresh Apple, Tropical Fruit Mix, Rice Krispie Treat

Tuesday: Chili and Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Steak Sandwich with Trimmings, Coleslaw, Peas and Carrots, Chilled Peach Slices, Fresh Orange Smiles, Macaroni and Cheese, Crackers, Chewy Fudge Brownie

Wednesday: Red Beans with Rice and Sausage, Chicken Sandwich with Trimmings, Seasoned Potato Cuts, Seasoned Green Beans, Fresh Banana, Strawberry Blend, Mexican Cornbread

Thursday: Chili Cheese Fritos, American Sub Sandwich, Buttered Peas, Carrot Sticks with Dip, Fruit Cocktail, Fresh

Fruit Bowl
Friday: Beef Patty with Rice and Gravy, Sloppy Joe, Seasoned Lima Beans, Garden Salad with Dressing, Chilled Pear Slices, Applesauce, Yeast Roll.

Hancock N. Central Gulfview

Charles B. Murphy and East Hancock Elementary Schools

Served daily: Bread, Dessert, Milk and Condiments

BREAKFAST

Salad, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Sliced Apples, Fruit Juice, Biscuit, Crackers, Pudding

Friday: Salisbury Steak, Texas Grilled Cheese, Spicy Fries, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Applesauce, Fruit Juice, Yeast Roll, Oatmeal-Raisin Cookie

Hancock High and Hancock Middle Schools

Served daily: Chef Salad, Bread, Dessert, Milk

and Condiments

LUNCH

Monday: Holiday

Tuesday: Red Beans and Rice with Sausage, Hot Roast on Bun with Gravy, Chef Salad, Ranch Baked Fries, Cheesy Calif. Veggies, Tossed Salad, Fruit Cocktail, Fruit Juice, Cornbread, Crackers, Oatmeal Cookie

Wednesday: Chicken Gumbo, Ham Poboy, Chef Salad, French Fries, Whole Kernel Corn, Tossed Salad, Chilled Pears, Fruit Juice, Yeast Roll, Crackers, Fruit Crisp

Thursday: Pot Roast with Gravy, Chicken Patty Sandwich, Chef Salad, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Sliced Apples, Fruit Juice, Biscuit, Crackers, Creamsicle Dessert

Friday: Pizza, Fish Nuggets, Texas Grilled Cheese, Spicy Fries, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Applesauce, Fruit Juice, Yeast Roll, Gelatin

LUNCH

Monday: Holiday

Tuesday: Red Beans with Rice and Sausage, Sliced Turkey on Bun with Gravy, Chef Salad, Ranch Baked Fries, Cheesy Calif. Veggies, Tossed Salad, Fruit Cocktail, Fruit Juice, Cornbread, Crackers, Oatmeal Cookie

Wednesday: Chicken Gumbo, Meatball Sandwich, Broccoli Salad, Whole Kernel Corn, Potato Salad, Chilled Pears, Fruit Juice, Yeast Roll, Fruit Crisp

Thursday: Pot Roast with Gravy, Chicken Sandwich, Chef

All menus subject to change.

Echo staff photo by Geoff Belcher

Members of the Bay St. Louis Daisy Troop met at Bay St. Louis Catholic Elementary recently to assemble their betta bowls -- the Daisies are now caring for betta fish in order to earn their petals for responsibility.

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Time

Leave Sunday, January 6, 1952, for Fort McPherson, Georgia, to report to Third Army Headquarters. Hamilton is the husband of the former Mildred Cagle, is the father of two children, Bob and Linda. He served as president of the Bay St. Louis Rotary Club during the past year.

Three farmers took office January 1, as members of the Hancock County PMA Committee. In the county convention held Nov. 30, in the PMA office, Fitzhugh Lee was re-elected chairman of the Hancock County Production and Marketing Administration Committee. Alton A. Kellar was elected vice-chairman; and Frank Shaw was named regular member. The newly elected community committeemen in Hancock County are Kleamor Bilbo, David Baker, Theo Bilbo, Elvis E. Necaise, David Wainwright, Rufus Cuevas, Maborn Eccles, Julius Davis, Gus Frierson, Joseph L.

Continued from Page 1B

group on some of the objectives of the Mississippi Educational Association.

At the regular meeting of Christ Church Guild held on Tuesday, January 8, and the newly elected officers were installed by the Rev. Warwick Aiken in an impressive service of Corporate Communion. The following officers were installed: Mrs. Richard Shadoin, president; Mrs. Harold B. Weston, vice-president; Mrs. George R. Rea, recording secretary; Mrs. Clarence Horton, corresponding secretary; and Miss Louise A. Crawford, treasurer. The Department heads are, Mrs. A. O. Dresher, Christian Education; Mrs. E. N. Spence, Christian Social Relations; Mrs. N. L. Carter, United Thank Offering; Mrs. L. T. Boyd, Church Periodicals; Mrs. George Horton, Missions and Church Extensions; and Mrs. Harold B. Weston, Promotion and Publicity.

FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
January 11, 1946 - Sam Fayre, County Superintendent of Public Education was guest speaker at the Bay St. Louis Rotary Club on Wednesday at Hotel Reed. He talked to the

Bay Man

Sandra 1977 Bay was named Marketing at the As and Te Conference this past I The Educator teachers w plary perf room and

Stay to h

"Stayin theme for hour at Hancock Wednesda 10:30 a.m. Froggy for Minerv Freezing a read durin Daigre, p will assist crafts.

Monkey theme for hour at

Weddings & Engagements



Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Sciacca

Sciacca-Strickland

Jeannie Rae Strickland of Kentwood, La. and Anthony "Tony" Gerald Sciacca of Pearlington were united in marriage October 21, 2000 at Main Street Methodist Church in Bay St. Louis. The Rev. Van Carpenter officiated.

The bride's parents are Jimmie and Cheryl Strickland of Kentwood and Dianne Smith Strickland of Hammond.

The groom is the son of Glenn and Kathy Dorr of Pearlington and Gerald and Heidi Sciacca of Slidell.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride was attended by maid of honor Donna Savoie of Slidell, friend of the bride; matron of honor Rhonda Hartis of Winston-Salem, N.C., sister of the bride; and Robbie Zobrist of Baton Rouge, cousin of the bride.

Flower girl was Jessica

Hartis of Winston-Salem, niece of the bride, and ring bearer was Brayden Stephens, son of the bride.

Best man was Shon Autry, and groomsmen included George Lear Jr. and Chris Bosarge, all friends of the groom from Pearlington.

Ushers were Jesse Strickland, brother of the bride, and Scott Bagot, stepbrother of the bride, both from Kentwood.

After a honeymoon trip to Cancun, Mexico, the couple will reside in Diamondhead with Brayden, the bride's son.

The bride is a technical supervisor at Chalmette Medical Center, Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine. The groom is a Lieutenant with the Diamondhead Fire Department.

Stewart-Cichon to wed Feb. 3

Carl and Miriam Stewart of Bay Minette, Ala. announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Alicia Renée Stewart, to John Gregory Cichon, son of Richard and Dee Cichon of Bay St. Louis.

The bride-elect is a Baldwin City High School graduate and earned a BS degree in psychology at Troy State University, summa cum laude. She is a marketing coordinator for Alta College in Denver, Colo.

The prospective groom is a St. Stanislaus High School graduate and received a BS in chemical and petroleum engi-

neering from Colorado School of Mines where he was president of the American Indian Sciences and Engineering Society and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

He is employed with Archer Daniels Midland Process Engineers in Decatur, Ill.

The wedding will take place February 3, 2001 at 3 p.m. in Crossroads Church of God in Bay Minette, Ala. with the Rev. Ronald Hodges and Father Bill Kelley, SVD, officiating.

The couple became engaged Feb. 14, 2000 on Lookout Mountain in Denver, Colo.



John Cichon and Alicia R. Stewart

Births

CONNER S. DRISCOLL
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin J. Driscoll of Bay St. Louis announce the birth of their second child, Conner, October 11, 2000 at 2:12 p.m. at Hancock Medical Center in Bay St. Louis.

He weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces.

Mrs. Driscoll is the former Josette Blackledge.

Maternal grandparents are Gwen and Mark Blackledge of Bay St. Louis.

Paternal grandparents are Linda and Dalton Parker of Bay St. Louis.

Great-grandparents are Earleen and Leo Driscoll of Waveland, and great-great-grandmother is Hazel Driscoll of Baltimore, Md.

Conner is welcomed by his brother, Nicholas.

Umps meet today

There will be a general meeting today, Jan. 21 at 5 p.m. for anyone interested in becoming an umpire for the Bay St. Louis Dixie Girls Softball League and Babe Ruth Baseball League.

The meeting will be at the Old City Hall, Second Street, Bay St. Louis.

For information, contact Lonnie Falgout at 760-3456, Hooty Adam, 467-6476; or Bay St. Louis Parks and Recreation Director Gus McKay, 643-7135.

Bay High grad is National Marketing Teacher of Year



Sandra Gallups

Sandra Rayborn Gallups, a 1977 Bay High School graduate, was named as the National Marketing Teacher of the Year at the Association for Career and Technical Education Conference in San Diego, Calif., this past December.

The Gallup Marketing Educator of the Year recognizes teachers who have shown exemplary performance in the classroom and in student achievement.

ment. It also recognizes teachers who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique programs.

Gallups teaches marketing and cooperative education at Oak Mountain High School in Birmingham, Ala. She was named as Alabama's Marketing Education Teacher of the Year in 1999 and also received the award as Alabama's Vocational Teacher of the Year for 1999.

She is a 1981 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and holds a master's degree in vocational administration and supervision from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"I continuously reflect on memories of my business education classes under Mrs. Freda Cameron at Bay High. I still use some of her methods and 'quotations' to this day. She truly was an inspiration," said Gallups, who is the daughter of Talmadge and Rena Jean Rayborn of Waveland.

Staying warm and monkeyshines to highlight libraries' story hours

"Staying Warm" will be the theme for the children's story hour at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library on Wednesday, January 24, at 10:30 a.m.

Froggy Gets Dressed, A Hat for Minerva Louise and F is for Freezing are the books to be read during the program. Susan Daigre, program coordinator, will assist the children in froggy headband.

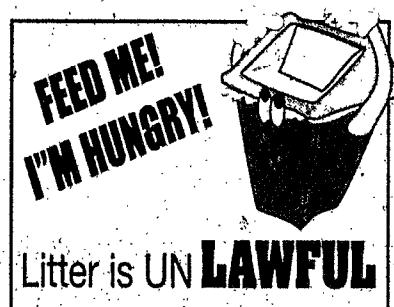
Weekly story hours are held September through May. Programs last approximately one-half hour, depending upon subject matter and planned activity.

Programs and activities are designed for pre-school age children three to five years old who

are not part of a nursery or preschool group.

For individual branch story hour information, contact Adrienne Bradley, Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library, 467-5282; or Sandra Ladner, Kiln Public Library, 255-1724.

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Southern Miss project earns spot on space station

By Jack Mitchell

Over the past several years, University of Southern Mississippi chemistry professor Dr. John Pojman had taken his research to the edge of outer space.

Within their next couple of years, he will push it beyond the edge.

In December, Pojman and his team of researchers, including Southern Miss graduate student Bill Ainsworth of Mount Olive, were given the green light by NASA to prepare experiments that will be conducted by astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

An initial experiment will be conducted aboard the space station within two years, and a more complex experiment will fly within five years.

"This is an exciting milestone for our team and the university," Pojman said. "These experiments will be the first from USM to be performed in orbit and the first from Mississippi on the space station."

They are also, he added, the only experiments involving polymers to be scheduled for the space station.

The project, "Transient Interfacial Phenomena in Miscible Polymer Systems," seeks to test how two fluids that can dissolve in each other (miscible fluids) interact without the interference of gravity.

USMGC to establish new writing project

With the use of a \$20,000 grant from the National Writing Project, the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast will begin working with Coast teachers to help train better writers.

The university will establish the Live Oak Writing Project on the Gulf Park campus, which will bring coast teachers together to strengthen their teaching methods. The project will include a summer institute as part of its services to teachers.

The Gulf Park National Writing Project Summer Institute is set for June 18-July 20 on the USMGC campus. An orientation will be June 8-9.

Applications for the summer institute will be accepted until March 12.

During the institute, teachers will examine their classroom practices, conduct research and develop their own writing skills under the direction of Dr. Elaine White, project director and an assistant professor of English at USMGC.

Other instructors are project co-directors Mary Kay Deen and Frances Weiler.

The National Writing Project, which was established in 1974, is a professional development network for teachers to improve the teaching and learning of writing in public schools.

White said the Live Oak Writing Project's name reflects the uniqueness and strength of the indigenous trees found along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Live oaks are known for their strength, their outstretched branches teeming with life, and their incredible beauty, she said.

For information on the Live Oak Writing Project, contact White at (228) 214-3288.

Area I 'B' closed to oyster harvest

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources has closed Area I "B" Conditionally Approved Waters to the harvest of oysters, effective last Friday, Jan. 19, because of the Pearl River gauge at Pearl River, La., exceeding shellfish growing waters management plan criteria. Area I "B" Conditionally Approved Waters includes St. Joseph's or "St. Joe" Reef.

For more information with respect to the open and closed areas, call the 24-hour Oyster Information Hotline at 228-374-5167 or 1-800-385-5902.

"It is a very old scientific problem, one that goes back to the 19th century," Pojman said.

To that end, Pojman and his team have conducted experiments on NASA's high-altitude KC-135 aircraft flights, which can produce brief moments of weightlessness by flying in a parabolic trajectory.

Conducting the experiments aboard the space station, where there is a complete lack of gravity, is the next logical step, he said.

"The KC-135 flights simulated reduced gravity, but it was

not of a very high quality," said Ainsworth. "You were thrown all over the plane, being pushed up against the ceiling."

Before the experiments can take place, plenty of work must first be accomplished, Pojman said. NASA engineers are already at work designing and building equipment necessary to complete the experiments.

"The NASA engineers will take our requirements and design the necessary equipment," said Pojman, estimating that the project could ultimately cost in excess of \$10 million.

"Their engineers are very thorough and very good."

Pojman and his team will also have to train the astronauts who will be conducting the experiments. A training program must be developed that will pass muster with NASA officials.

"We will develop a training CD, with a video," he said. "We will then go to Houston to train the astronauts, about a year in advance."

Ainsworth, a Mississippian who is pursuing a master's degree in chemistry, said work

ing with NASA has been a real treat, one he hopes will serve him well down the road.

"I've enjoyed being able to interact with the NASA people," he said. "You work with a team of 15 engineers, and they are all experts in their field."

When it comes time for the experiments to be conducted, Pojman said his team will have to stand by and wait for the data to be collected. Fortunately, though, they won't be completely idle.

"On NASA's website, <www.NASA.gov>, you can

input your hometown and it will show you how to track the space station," he said. "Then we can look up in the sky and say, 'They're conducting our experiments up there. That's pretty neat, when you think about it.'

Pojman's team, in addition to Ainsworth, consists of Dr. Yuri Chekanov and Dr. Jonathan Maser, both postdoctoral researchers, and co-investigators, Dr. Vitaly Volpert of the Universite Lyon I in Lyon, France, and Dr. Hermann Wilke of the Institute of Crystal Growth in Berlin, Germany.

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Seated: Lauly Peterson, Standing (left to right) Ginger Peterson, Bobbie Bowman, Jerry Peterson, Nell Koenenn

Statewide Insurance Services would like to invite you to their new location next to the Hancock Bank in Kiln, MS. Although they are still settling in their new offices, they would certainly like for you to stop by and meet them. The insurance agency is owned by Jerry and Lauly Peterson. Their agents are Lauly Peterson, Ginger Peterson and Nell Koenenn, with Bobbie Bowman serving as their administrative assistant.

Jerry and Lauly Peterson purchased this agency several years ago and have worked very hard to upgrade the agency and bring what they consider a wider selection of services to their customers. What they have seen is not only a lot of changes in Hancock County and the Kiln, but a lot of changes in the insurance needs of their customers.

What they have tried to bring to their agency is a variety of insurance services. They do health, life, AFLAC, commercial, liability, bonds, workers compensation, auto, flood, home owners, mobile homes north and south of I-10 (with flood when needed), etc.

Besides what they call the traditional insurance services, they are also able to offer some new (to some of the insurance agencies) services such as employee outsourcing. This service allows the employer to take advantage of some of the "Fortune 500" level benefits at the best rates. Giving the small business owner the opportunity to give their employees big company benefits, without losing that family owned environment and still save a little money. This should also help some of the employers who have began to feel the workers compensation crunch.

They have worked very hard to try and understand the needs of the community and are active in some of the organization such as the Professional Insurance Agents of Mississippi and the Independent Insurance Agents of Mississippi. Lauly Peterson is on the board of the Gulf Coast Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors and the Hancock Chamber of Commerce. Lauly said "All of these organization have had a definite impact on the success of our business, but I would like to add there are a lot of fine coastal agents that have been extremely helpful to us also. (Betsy and David are on the top of the list.)"

With the auto rush slowing down a little, they are hoping for the opportunity to spend a little more time with each of their customers and the chance to put the finishing touches on their new offices. They are definitely looking forward to their ribbon cutting in the near future. They would like to say THANK YOU to their many customers, for the patience and the understanding they have shown during both the move and the auto rush.

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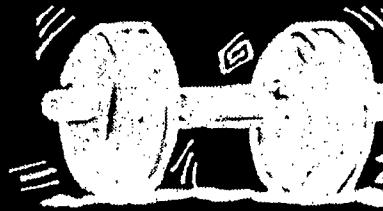
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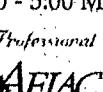
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REFLECTIONS
ON LIFEBy Father Jerome
LeDoux, SVD

Is there fire in your belly?

We constantly look out for people who are good-looking, powerful and talented. Because of the magnetism of appearance, we like to see a splendid, eye-popping specimen, especially in a contest. However, if we stop there, we may have only a shell of a human being in front of us. Spirit is missing.

We know only too well that looks, strength, talent and all appearances can be very deceiving, for "It's not the dog that's in the fight, but the fight that's in the dog" that counts.

How many times have we seen an animal superior in appearance and strength beat a hasty retreat when confronted with a homely specimen bristling with fire in its eyes and belly?

Far more talented and more powerful teams in baseball, basketball, football and other sports give us oft-repeated lessons, falling victim to weaker, less-talented teams which play as a team and with fire in their belly.

On many talk shows and in print we bear coaches dunning their athletes on the truism that success in athletics is 95 percent mental. So, the contests which take place in all sports follow the same rhyme and rhythm: the dog with the most fire and the greatest desire will usually win hands down.

But far more than physical conquest is at stake here. Just as surely as one triumphs in the field of play through fire and desire, so does one seize and inspire the minds of others through passion. The same cerebral speech which puts people to sleep electrifies them when delivered with passion.

Without the fire of passion stimulating our attention, most of us are not able to sustain alertness and concentration during a lecture, sermon, meeting or difficult conversation. A communicator has to literally compete for our attention, wresting our interest away from numerous modem distractions.

Today's Generation X children pose a far more formidable problem than most elders do, with their roots burrowed deep into blaring boom boxes and stereos, TV games and spectaculairs, the Internet and e-mail, and countless distractions clawing at them through modem conveniences and luxuries.

In short, Generation X is overstimulated through their ear drums, eyes and entire brain.

Numb by the excess of overbearing stimuli, hardly anything short of melodramatic, violence-filled movies grabs their attention. If there is no fire in your belly, you will probably not be able to seize their attention.

However, unbridled passion, fire and desire of themselves are usually a liability and can be destructive. Hotheads and their short-fused tempers coin alienate and divide in a matter of seconds. This undesirable kind of fire in our bellies can lead only to division, withdrawal and sadness.

We definitely do not want to be consumed by anger which can be one of the most destructive passions in the world. By the same token, righteous anger, as in the case of Jesus driving out the money changers in the temple, has its place and is a desirable instance of fire in our bellies.

In our health-conscious world today, I'm sure you are aware of the huge negatives of uncontrolled anger, especially involving the scourge of high blood pressure and heart disease. This is, clearly, the wrong kind of fire and we want no part of it in our belly.

Another no-no for fire in our belly is the smorgasbord of rages which have invaded the minds and emotions of so many people that one has to think soberly whether cruising the skies, the highway or the city streets. Fortunately, in most cases it takes two to dance the tango of anger.

Except for an extremely few souls who want absolutely no disturbances in their lives, we all reach out for passionate expressions and reactions. We are deeply disappointed when our spouse, parents, children, siblings, relatives or friends show no fire or passion; so we go out looking for it.

No wonder so many people try to find vicarious fire in their beliefs, frequenting melodramatic movies and exciting sporting events, surfing the Internet for the very latest in everything, and pursuing thrills at every turn. Problem is, most such people are looking for fire in the wrong places.

"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Luke 12:49).

Fire in our bellies? Jesus shows us the real fire and invites us repeatedly: "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him" (Revelation 3:20).



Christmas dinner

The Waveland Civic Association held its annual Christmas dinner at the Hancock County Civic Center. Each year at the dinner, toys and food items are collected for the needy. Members include, in front, Jerry West; and from left, Ken Poore, Garry Slaughter, Jim Odom, Kelvin Schulz, Chuck Tippit, Jeep Ladner, David A. Garcia, Anthony Serio, Jay Fountain, Buddy Seals, Tyrone Fountain, Tommy Serio, Leroy Peterson, Raymond Cuevas, Shorty Nacaise Jr., Tommy Longo and Felton Cuevas.

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He entered into a covenant with the people.

The response of the people was unanimous. "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient" (Exodus 24:7).

After forty years of grumbling, wrangling, and disobedience, Moses realized the problem.

"Yet to this day the Lord has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear" (Deuteronomy 29:4). That generation died in the wilderness.

Heaven is not a given. Salvation is not a right. It is a gift.

We must have eyes to see God. We must have ears to hear God. We must have hearts to know God. These things come from God. They are gifts of God.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

For a free audiotape on this subject, call 1-800-777-0389; e-mail free_tape@juno.com; or visit www.sterlingpulpit.org

Macedonia revival
January 22-25

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church of Waveland will have four-day revival Monday, Jan. 22 through Thursday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

Speakers include, Monday, the Rev. Timothy Johnson, pastor of Little Zion Baptist Church, Waveland;

Tuesday, the Rev. J. W. Rawls, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pearlington;

Wednesday, the Rev. Othell Adkins, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Saucier;

And Thursday, the Rev. Lee E. Morris Jr., associate minister of New Homes Baptist Church, Gautier.



FBLA donates for Christmas

Before Christmas, the Hancock High School Future Business Leaders of America organization collected Christmas gifts and food for two families in the Hancock County School District. FBLA sponsor Mary Isbell noted that gifts and food were donated for the children and parents in both families.

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MARDI GRAS MADNESS

A short history of Carnival

IT'S A FEVER THAT IS SEASONAL

It's Mardi Gras madness, and it strikes residents and visitors alike this time of year. It isn't native to the Coast; it began centuries ago in Europe. However, it has taken on its own particular symptoms in the 151 years since it first addicted a group of young men in Mobile, Ala.

Those symptoms include a compulsion to dress up in costumes and fancy clothes; a need to stand along as many parade routes as possible and yell "Throw me something, mister!" at the top of your lungs; then scramble madly for a share of the resulting shower of trinkets; and an insatiable desire for king cake.

ITS ORIGINS

Mardi Gras, French for "Fat Tuesday," began many centuries ago as a pagan celebration of the spring season. As Christianity took hold in the Roman Empire and then became the "state religion," the early Catholic Church tried to eliminate the custom, which included worship of pagan gods.

However, the pagans didn't want to give up their celebration, so the Church "religionized" it by turning it into a day of feast before the required penances and fastings of Lent. The church coined the name "Carnelevarre," Latin for "farewell to flesh." Over the years, the term was corrupted to its present form, "Carnival."

As the Church adopted and adapted the ritual, it turned into an affair lasting several weeks and including dramas, dances and celebrations. Over the years, it waned in popularity, but was brought back by the French in the Middle Ages.

The French gave the celebration its name of Mardi Gras and added new customs to it, including



The Krewe of Nereids led one of the largest Mardi Gras processions on the Coast last year, with members throwing copies of the 2000 edition of their coveted poster.

Echo file photo



masquerading Coast area these days. According to information from the Gulf Coast Carnival Association, it started in Mobile in 1830, and wasn't even intended to be a Mardi Gras parade for the feast. The "boeuf" was a huge bull, either live or manmade, with gilded horns. It has become Mardi Gras' traditional symbol.

In fact, it wasn't intended to be a parade at all. A group of intoxicated young men celebrating the new year reeled through the town's streets, raising a ruckus with the gongs, rakes and cowbells they brandished. As they made their way past the mayor's house, he asked them to join him for breakfast.

As a result of the mayor's attention, the young men decided to celebrate the new year this way every year, and called themselves the "Cowbellion de Rakin Society." By 1840 they had a theme, a ball and a parade, and had become in effect the forerunner to the first Mardi Gras krewes.

By the way, the spelling of "krewe" comes from Milton's



The Krewe of Selene cruised through Diamondhead last Mardi Gras season.

Echo file photo

HISTORY-PAGE 4

The History of the Mardi Gras King Cake

Traditional pastry originally came from Europeans

For newcomers to Hancock County and the Gulf Coast area, it may seem that the time-honored King Cake originated at Ruth's Cakery on Court Street in Bay St. Louis. Certainly, she perfected the formula.

But the tasty pastry enjoys a long, storied history that began far, far away.

The king cake traditionally was served on "Little Christmas" or "Kings' Day" other names for the Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated Jan. 6. Since Epiphany comes on the twelfth day of the Christmas celebration, it also became

known as Twelfth Night. Traditionally the cake was served on Epiphany Eve and the Magi.

Today, the cake is served throughout the "Epiphany season," or until Mardi Gras.

By the Middle Ages, veneration of the three wise men had spread throughout

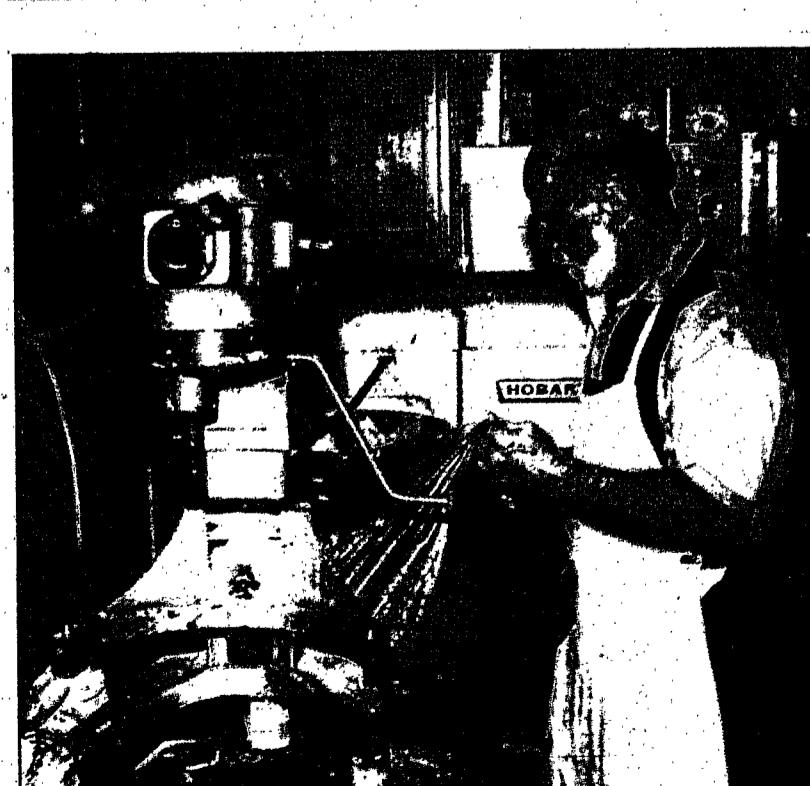
Terry Tripodi of Daddy-O's in Waveland shows off one of the restaurant's new King Cakes.

Europe and was expected to make a contribution to a worthy cause, usually

the education of a deserving youngster. In some parts of Europe, those who find the bean and pea are king and queen for the day. In New Orleans, the person who receives the piece of cake containing a "baby" must provide the king cake for the next gathering of the season. (In some offices, king cake has become a daily treat for the full length of Carnival.)

New Orleans bakeries report selling 4,000-5,000 king cakes each day during the Carnival season, and cakes are shipped to destinations worldwide.

Traditional king cake is similar to brioche, a sweetened yeast bread, its only adornment a sprinkling of colored sugar. Today king cakes with an unprecedented array of fillings and flavorings have outdistanced the sugared one in popularity.



Jim Thompson of Ruth's Cakery mixes a new batch of dough for he and his wife's famous King Cakes. The couple makes the dough the night before, he said, then comes in at 2 a.m. after it has fermented to finish making the cake.



MARDI GRAS MADNESS!

2001 Parade Calendar

ECHO STAFF REPORT

Break out your beads and put on your walking shoes - it's Mardi Gras time again. Parade routes and times can change at the last minute. Please check back for updates as Mardi Gras approaches.

In Hancock County

Saturday, Feb. 3:

11 a.m. - Krewe of Kids, North Bay Elementary School, Bay St. Louis

Saturday, Feb. 10:

6:30 p.m. - Krewe of Selene

Diamondhead

Sunday, Feb. 18:
2 p.m. - Krewe of Nereids Mardi Gras Parade at Choctaw Plaza, Waveland

Friday, Feb. 23:
Bay Catholic Elementary - start time not yet available

Saturday, Feb. 24:
Noon - Krewe of Diamondhead Parade, Diamondhead

Fat Tuesday, Feb. 27:
1 p.m. - Krewe of Real People Parade, Bay St. Louis

The Bay-Waveland Head Start Parade has not yet been scheduled.

In Pass Christian

Sunday, Feb. 25:
1 p.m. - St. Paul's Carnival Association Mardi Gras Parade, Davis and Hardy Streets, Pass Christian

Around the Coast

Saturday, Feb. 3:
1 p.m. - Elks Mardi Gras Parade, Ocean Springs Yacht Club

Saturday, Feb. 10:
2 p.m. - Orange Grove Kids Parade

Saturday, Feb. 17:
2 p.m. - Orange Grove Carnival Association Parade, Community and Klein Roads, Gulfport

7 p.m. - Gautier Men's Club Mardi Gras Parade, Jackson County Campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Gautier

Sunday, Feb. 18:
2 p.m. - Long Beach Carnival Association, Lumpkin Stadium, Long Beach

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Echo file photo
Bay Catholic Elementary marched down Court Street in Bay St. Louis during last year's festivities.

1 p.m. Jackson County Carnival Association Mardi Gras Parade, Main Street, Biloxi
6 p.m. - Krewe of Gemini Night Parade, 30th Avenue and 13th Street, Gulfport

Saturday, Feb. 24:
2 p.m. - Krewe of Gemini Day Parade, 19th Street and 25th Avenue, Gulfport
5 p.m. - Gulf Coast Carnival Association Night Parade, Main Street, Biloxi

Sunday, Feb. 25:
2 p.m. - North Bay Mardi Gras Parade, St. Martin Library, St. Martin

Fat Tuesday, Feb. 27:
11 a.m. - Gulf Coast Carnival Association Day Parade, Main Street, Biloxi
3 p.m. - Krewe of Neptune



Echo file photo
The Krewe of Real People Mardi Gras 2000.



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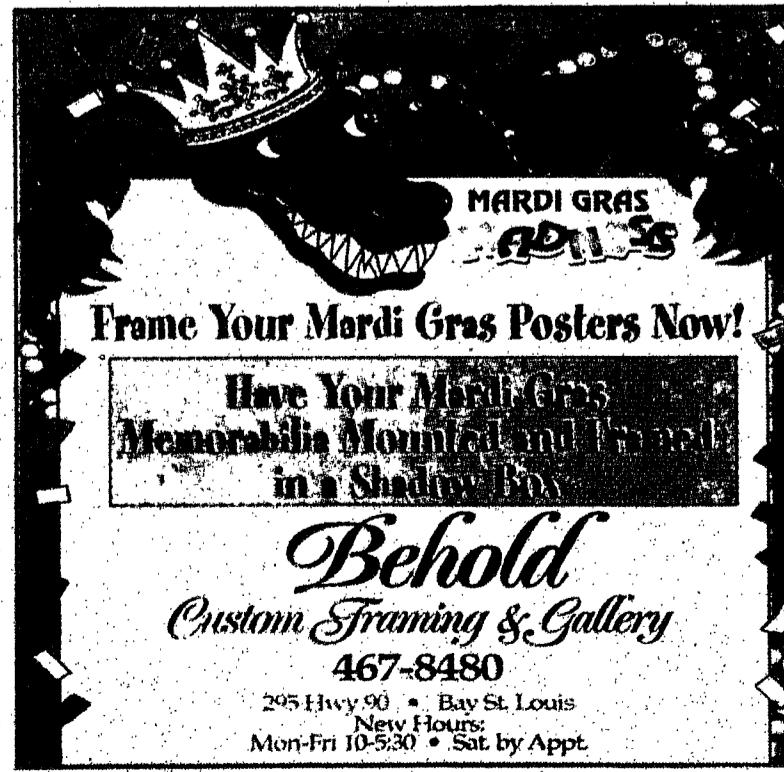


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p.m.
Atlas - Metairie, 7 p.m.
Eve - Mandeville, 7 p.m.
Gladiators - St. Bernard, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 17:
Aladdin - West Bank, noon
Pontchartrain - Mid-City, 1 p.m.
Sparta - Uptown, 6 p.m.
Pegasus - Uptown, 7 p.m.
Caesar - Metairie, 6 p.m.
Olympia - Covington, 6 p.m.
Shangri-La - Uptown, TBA

Sunday, Feb. 18:
Carrollton - Uptown, noon
King Arthur & Merlin - Uptown, 1:30 p.m.
Alla - West Bank, noon
Barkus - French Quarter, 2 p.m.
Rhea - Metairie, 12 p.m.
Centurions - Metairie, 5:30 p.m.

CALENDAR--PAGE 3



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MARDI GRAS MADNESS

History

Continued from Page 1

Paradise Lost, which the Mystic Krewe of Comus used as the theme for its first parade in New Orleans in 1837. The group's members paraded on foot through the streets, depicting various gods and demons. Since Milton's epic poem talks of a "krewe" of demons, Comus adopted the old English spelling of "crew." The term stuck, and most Mardi Gras groups today are known as "krewes."

MARDI GRAS TRADITIONS

Mardi Gras parades, always spectacles of both the sublime and the ridiculous, include a number of their own rituals which have evolved over the years.

For instance, the traditional Mardi Gras colors—gold, green and purple—are said to represent power, faith and justice. You'll see these colors everywhere at Mardi Gras—on king cakes and floats, in jewelry and clothes, even in seasonal advertising.

The Rex organization of New Orleans gets the credit for the colors, which were used in the Mardi Gras flag made by Rex members in 1872.

The custom of throwing trinkets developed from the European custom of throwing dragees, sugarcoated almonds, to the crowds. Paraders in New Orleans in the 1850s took the idea and modified it, throwing instead small bags of flour that would burst open and shower the onlookers. Well, the onlookers started throwing flour back at the paraders. Then they started throwing other, more dangerous items. That particular custom was halted before long.

A hundred years later, the first doubloon was thrown in the 1959 Rex parade. The small, round coins, which generally display the theme of the krewe

or parade which had them minted, quickly became a new Mardi Gras tradition. Now, doubloons are considered collectibles, especially the older, heavier metal ones.

Beads are also a mainstay of parade throws. They run the gamut, from beautiful costume jewelry that rivals what you could buy in a store to some of the tackiest plastic items ever to be molded. At any given parade, you're just as likely to catch a 30-inch strand of pearls as to get hold of something that looks like a strand from a 60s-style head curtain.

In recent years, plastic cups with the parade or krewe theme on it, have become a featured throw at many parades. Small toys and wrapped candy pieces are also likely to be among your parade loot.

You may even come away from a parade with a silk or paper flower or two. Many of the marching clubs carry flowers, and exchange them for kisses with parade-goers.

At a Mardi Gras parade, you'll see everything from street vendors selling cotton candy to clowns performing Christian witnessing skits to floats, walking groups, equestrian troupes and marching bands.

And of course there are the people. People everywhere—along the route, in the parades, who are dressed as their favorite whatever, or are sporting various Mardi Gras type ornaments or face paint. Picnics abound along a parade route, and often you'll see a motor home whose owners had staked out their spot a week or so in advance.

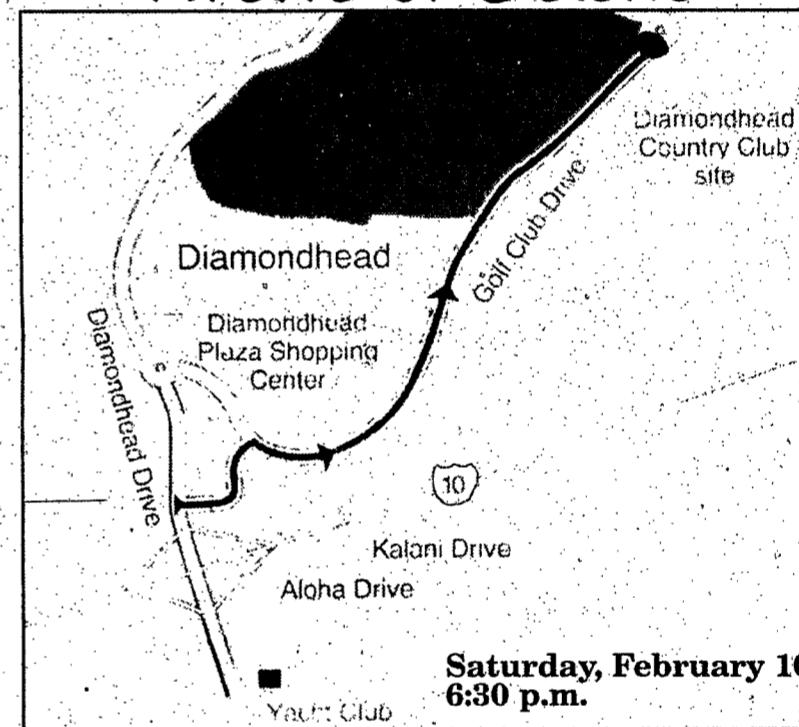
The parades are the feature of Mardi Gras most recognized by the general public, but the celebration for many also includes balls. On the Coast, the Gulf Coast Coliseum is the belle of the balls. Most of the krewes hold their dances there.



The Krewe of Selene Mardi Gras 2000

Echo file photo

Krewe of Selene



Saturday, February 10
6:30 p.m.

MARDI GRAS MUSEUM

For those who want to know more about the history of Mardi Gras on the Coast, there's the Mardi Gras Museum in Biloxi. Run by the Gulf Coast Carnival Association, the museum includes memorabilia and costumes from past Coast parades.

The museum is in the first

floor of the Magnolia Hotel in Biloxi. The GCCA's offices are in the second floor.

The oldest hotel on the Coast, the Magnolia Hotel was built in 1847 for John Hohn, a German immigrant who operated a barroom in it until his death less than a year after the hotel's completion. His wife, Elizabeth, operated the hotel after his death, then the Holley family, descendants of Hohn, took over its running until the city acquired it.

The hotel used to face the beach, but sustained major damage from the winds and waters of Hurricane Camille in 1969. A group of residents raised the money to restore the hotel and move it to higher ground on its original lot, throw overlooking the Rue Magnolia Walking Mall.

You can arrange for a tour of the museum by calling the GCCA at (228) 432-8806.

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The Krewe of Kids on Dunbar Avenue in Bay St. Louis.

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